

What's New?

Niihama City

No.201

May 2012

Published by SGG
Niihama



Exciting things

Michael Owain Smith

In my secondary school mock exam for Humanities, I remember I received a particularly bad grade. I asked my teacher what I needed to do to improve my score for the real tests 3 months later and he told me “you lack the ability to waffle, Owain.” I was told I have a tendency to summarize what would usually take people paragraphs to write, in a single sentence. That is why when I was asked to write a piece for “What`s new?” it seemed like quite a mammoth undertaking. Luckily I have 7 years of experience of living in Japan to draw from, but then again the Tudors reigned over England for centuries but I recall condensing them into a line or two.

I have lived in Japan for 7 years` now; in Niihama, Kyoto, Nagoya, Narita and a brief stint at Hakodate. I`ve been overjoyed at times and shocked at others. The biggest shock must have been discovering how big insects are in Japan. Some of the creatures I have seen here make me wonder if Mothra really was a work of fiction and not just something some guy spotted in his backyard under a daisy.

Of my more exciting experiences I treasure my meal at a Ninja cafe. To this day I have no idea how that ninja magician could possibly have moved the coin that was being held so tightly by my sister-in-law into the sealed envelope in his pocket with just a snap of the fingers. That was Tokyo.

I am now living in Niihama, and there are so many more exciting things to do. I have twice been to nagashisoumen, and caught and eaten so many noodles that my

stomach was sore. I have watched kids rush around in paddling pools trying to grab one of twenty or so eels swimming around their feet. I have touched a ghost kimono that appeared on TV. I have pretended to be engaged to get free food, and I have seen some of the most beautiful natural places around.

If ever you get the chance, I can't recommend checking out choshi no taki enough. Ignore the local superstitions about ghosts coming out of the water and dragging you in. The scenery is splendid. It's the perfect place to escape the stress of work and maybe catch up on some reading and it also has surprisingly few visitors. When I went it was just me, my friend, the amazing waterfall, and the bloodthirsty killer ghost.

A more recent excursion took me to the Hirose historical museum on the edge of town. Even though I couldn't understand much of the written content, the museum was still interesting. There is a giant periscope for peering down on Niihama city, some fantastic photos taken of the Besshi mines, some holographic videos and while you're there you can walk around Hirose house and gardens. From what I could understand, Mr Hirose played a big role in the development of Niihama and the Sumitomo factories. He was a rich man, an influential man, and he was proud of what he had accomplished. It would seem quite peculiar these days to have a special room built on the top of your house where you can watch smoke from factories, but to Mr Hirose those puffy white clouds were a thing of beauty. But he must have felt also that his good fortune was not all of his own making. In his gardens he has a Shinto shrine as well as a small buddhist temple. So he was covered, whichever god turned out to be right.

In my opinion, it's better to get out there and explore it all yourself. You're never going to really get to know the place you live in without getting out of your house and doing some wandering. And when you do, please tell us all about your experiences in another issue of "What's new?"

Owain is from Selsey, England. He's been living in Niihama for about 2 years and working as an English teacher. He enjoys Ghibli movies and gardening with the assistance of local cats. Unlike them he can't eat fish.

MOVIE

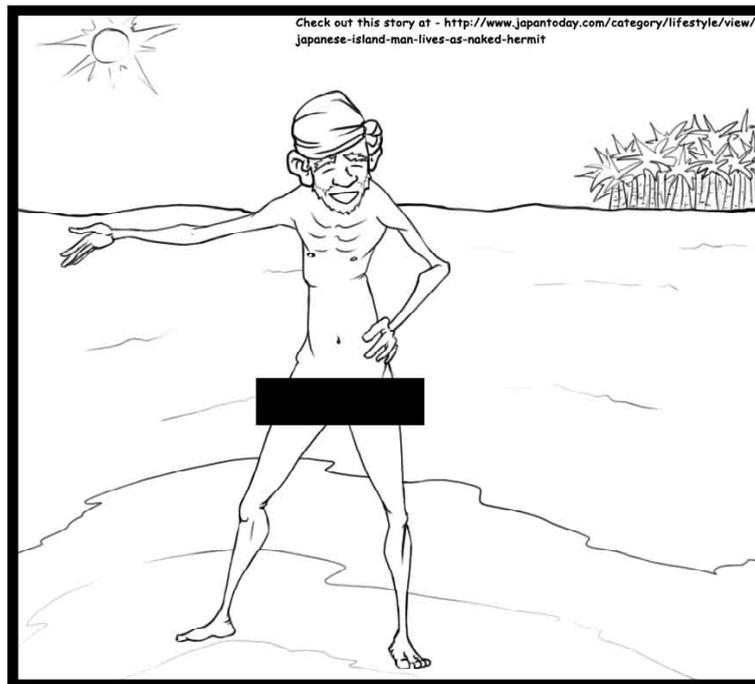
TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

April 7 ~	TITANIC	3D	English
April 13 ~	BATTLESHIP		English/Dubbed
April 14 ~	JOHN CARTER	3D	English/Dubbed
April 20 ~	Black & White	3D	English/Dubbed
April 28 ~	THOMAS and FRIENDS 2012		Dubbed
May 11 ~	LARRY CROWNE		English
May 18 ~	THE DESCENDANTS		English
May 19 ~	DARK SHADOWS		English
May 25 ~	MEN IN BLACK III		English/Dubbed

Information Service

Internet: <http://niihama-aeonmall.com>

Tape (24 hrs): 0897-35-3322 (in Japanese)



~ Welcome to Sotobanari Island! Strip off your clothes and get ready for the tour!

<Contributed by Adam Schartup>

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles. email: yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp

kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp

sheep@abeam.ocn.ne.jp

*The editors for this month are M. Shimamura & Y. Amano

A hint for your life ~ The power of lemon

(from the Ehime Shimbun)

Lemon can be used in many ways after you have used it in cooking. It works well for cleaning your dishes. Rub a misted glass with a piece of lemon, rinse it with water, wipe with a cloth and you will get a beautifully clean glass. It can also work for pans. You can kill bacteria on cooking boards and knives and deodorize them by rubbing them with a piece of lemon. Lemon has the power to bleach too. If you grind the lemon skin and use it as toothpaste, your teeth will become whiter. You can use lemon to remove stains on your carpet, but be sure to test it on a hidden part of the carpet first.

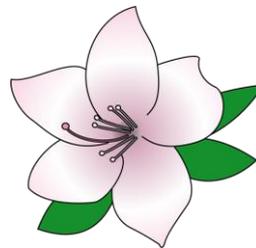
Cup noodle Gohan ~cup noodle flavor precooked rice

(from the Ehime Shimbun, 2/20, 2012)

"Nisshin Cup Noodle Gohan" is precooked rice with a taste just like Cup Noodle, the very popular precooked noodle. This new product became such a hot item back in 2010 when it was first put on the market experimentally in just the Kansai Area. Nisshin had to stop selling it for a month because the company could not supply enough product to keep up with demand. Last July it went on sale all over Japan and generated good sales. It looks likely to double the sales of precooked rice, which is reheatable in microwave oven.

The method of cooking is just the same as GoFan, which has been sold since 2009:
"Put water into the cup and place it in the microwave."

The rice is specially dried, using high-speed hot air fans, which makes for nice and fluffy cooked rice.



You can read on the Web.

***What's New?**

***Garbage and trash Collection Calendar**

***Information living in Niihama**

Click  <http://www.city.niihama.lg.jp/english/>

Clair:*Multilingual Living Information

<http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengorev/en/index.html>

May Events

5/6 • 5/20: Sunday Market 7:30~12:00

At Chuo Koen Park south of Bunka Center

5/3~5/5 2012 Wakuwaku Museum 10:00~17:30

At Science Museum. You can enjoy giant soap bubbles, mysterious slime and handicrafts, experiencing the wonder of science. Specially held during Golden Week. Admission free.

5/12 • 5/26 Paperweight Making 10:00~12:00 13:30~16:00 At Science Museum

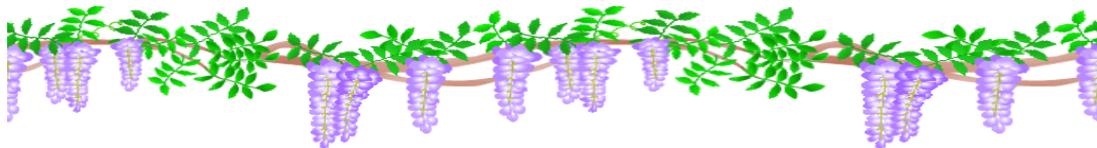
You can make your own special paperweight which contains some jewels or fossils.

First come first served. Admission free but you need a general ticket.

5/13 Pa-gora Fuji Matsuri (wisteria) 10:00~17:00

At Yuragi-no-mori

You will find outdoor restaurants and local products. Kumagai-so, special orchids will be in full bloom.



Exploring Restaurants: Western - style

No.7

Pont Pont



by Michael Newlin

After dinner, you may want to bring your Japanese friends to a Western place for an after-dinner drink. This bar is very European both in style and feel. They have many different beers, sakes, tequilas, and other liquors; the staff is very helpful but the atmosphere is the most exciting. Open late.

ONE POINT JAPANESE

いろいろな“いい”

A : Bさん、今年のゴールデンウィーク、何日休めますか。
B-san, kotoshi no gōruden wiku, nan nichi yasumemasu ka.
(How many days can you take off during Golden Week this year, B?)
B : 9日間です。Kokonokakan desu. (Nine days off.)
A : いいですねえ。9連休ですか。Ii desu nē. Kyū renkyū desu ka.
(How nice! Nine days off in a row!!)
うち(の会社)は、連休中が一番忙しいんです。
Uchi (no kaisha) wa, renkyūchū ga ichiban isogashin desu.
(My company is the busiest during those days.)

A : この服 どう? Kono fuku dō? (How do you like these clothes?)
B : いいねえ、よく似合ってるよ。Ii nē, yoku niatteru yo.
(Wonderful! They suit you very well.)
A : このかばんは? Kono kaban wa? (How about this bag?)
B : 使いやすそう。Tsukaiyasusō.
(It looks easy to use.)
軽いから、旅行にいいね。Karui kara, ryokō ni ii ne.
(It is light, so it would be good for traveling.)
A : じゃ、これとこれ、買ってもいい?
Ja, kore to kore, katte mo ii?
(OK, can I buy these clothes and this bag?)
B : (値段を見て) ええっ、こんなに高いの?
(Nedan o mite) Ee, konnani takai no?
(Looking at the price) (Wow!? They're that expensive?)
A : いい物だからしかたがないでしょう。
Ii mono dakara shikata ga nai deshō.
(They are good quality, so it can't be helped.)

A : Bさんの家って、何だか落ち着きますね。
B-san no uchitte nandaka ochitsukimasu ne.
(Your house makes me feel at ease somehow, B.)
B : みんなによく「居心地がいいね。」って言われるんですよ。
Minna ni yoku “igokochi ga ii ne” tte iwarerun desu yo.
(I'm often told, “It's comfortable here” by people.)
A : このイスも座り心地がいいし、ベッドも寝心地よさそう。
Kono isu mo suwarigokochi ga ii shi, beddo mo negokochi yosasō.
(This chair is comfortable to sit in too, and the bed also seems comfortable to sleep in.)
B : 泊まってもいいですよ。Tomatte mo ii desu yo.
(You can stay at my house tonight.)
A : 今日はいいです。また今度。Kyō wa ii desu. Mata kondo.
(No, not today. Next time.)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.
Feel free to contact us at: Tel 0897-34-3025 (Manami Miki).
e-mail : manami-m@js6.so-net.ne.jp