

What's New?

Niihama City

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All Fired Up!

By Katie Newman

Move to the other side of the world, strip away the busy social life, your family and friends and you find yourself... well, with a bit more time on your hands!

Fortunately for me I have been lucky enough to meet some incredible people here who have given me the opportunity to try something new and different. Hence I find myself in Japan and being introduced to the wonderful world of ceramic art.

I should begin by saying that once upon a time I believed myself to be quite a creative person. However, it has been years since I tried my hand at making or creating anything, so I jumped at the chance at giving this a go!

I was driven to a beautiful and old-worldly house set deep in the mountains in Saijo. The house has a unique and traditional charm, with no electricity and no air-con (which during August is pretty uncomfortable!) The backdrop setting of the studio is the mountains and river which is absolutely stunning. The only noises are made by the wind through the wind-chimes that adorn the house, and the many local inhabitants - the insects! You certainly feel detached from modern day life out here and the feeling is very therapeutic.

Upon entering the house, on the right is a beautiful Tatami room where Mr Hidekazu Hirai showcases his work. The room is lined with beautiful earthenware pots, plates, teacups, even jewellery, most of which have been beautifully glazed with an assortment of either bold or natural colours. Taking a left you walk down a narrow hallway which opens up to the main studio where Mr. Hidekazu works and takes students.

The studio was clean and bright with many authentic tools all neatly lined up and ready to go. My friend and I took a wheel each and perched on the stool. To begin, we placed a piece of clay onto the centre of the turntable. We then flattened this out with our palms to create a large slab of flat clay which would form the base of our pots. To make an even and symmetrical circular base was the tricky part. I watched as my friend

started to move the potters wheel, and taking a takebera (a traditional cutting tool) she placed this at the edge of the clay slab. Keeping the tool steady and the wheel moving, she sliced cleanly through the clay to create what appeared to be the perfect circle. Needless to say it took me three attempts and the guiding hand of Mr Hidekazu to get up to speed!

Once we had our circular bases it was time to start making our pots, and we were going to do this using the 'coiling' method. Coiling is an additive process and involves rolling out long pieces of clay to create coils, which are then added onto the upper surface of the base and built up from there. Using the turntable makes this process a whole lot quicker and easier. Once the first coiled row was in place, we removed the excess clay and then used our fingers to weld the clay from the outer edge of the slab upwards into the coil. We repeated this process several times until we had the desired height of our pot.

For best results, the clay needed to be welded on both the interior and exterior surface of the pot wall. We used our thumbs to smooth the inner surface in a downwards motion and our fingers to weld the outer surface upwards. Once the pot was complete we used a cutting wire to drag underneath the base to separate the piece from the turntable. That was all for today's lesson.

Two weeks later I returned to paint and glaze my pot. The glaze serves to render the pot impermeable to water as well as for decoration purposes. Once I had chosen colours and applied a design, I needed to dip the entire object into the glaze. It was now ready to be fired in the kiln.

A few weeks after, I was presented with the final piece all wrapped up protectively in newspaper. It was with a childish delight that I opened the package, and despite its flaws, stared proudly at the finished article; an authentically charming and colourful pot! I would thoroughly recommend that you try for yourself. Working in Mr Hidekazu's studio was an amazing experience and I am so pleased to have my own little piece of ceramic art memorabilia!

Contact - Hidekazu Hirai @ hide-wa@nbn / 090-1578-660

About Katie Newman - She was born in the UK and has been living and working in London for the past 6 years. She moved to Niihama at the beginning of July 2013 to pursue a teaching career. In her free-time, She enjoys reading, eating out and photography.

Bottled Water and Tap Water.

(from City News Letter August Issue, 2013)

Water in a plastic bottle is best drunk within two years of purchase. Its taste and flavor will gradually deteriorate after two years. After a bottle has been opened, don't leave it at room temperature because bacteria in the air can enter the bottle.

If an opened bottle is kept in the fridge, it should be consumed within one week. When water is drunk directly from a bottle, it should be consumed within two weeks as it is easy for bacteria to grow in opened bottles.

Water doesn't rot in theory but water does contain a lot of other substances that cannot be seen with the human eye. When microbes decompose these substances the water in the plastic bottle may rot. If it is kept at room temperature consume it within one day and even if it is kept in the fridge it should be used within one week.

Tap water in Niihama City complies with fifty strict water quality safety standards. Underground water of good quality is used for tap water but the Water Act requires it to be chlorinated to prevent bacteria from growing in the water. The smell of chlorine makes water less tasty but it does guarantee that it is safe to drink.

Clean-up volunteers for Public Facilities Wanted!

(from City News Letter September Issue, 2013)

Niihama City is looking for volunteers who can regularly clean up and weed public places such as roads, riverbanks and parks. Four thousand four hundred and two citizens from 98 civic groups have registered with the city office as clean-up volunteers. The aim of this project is to make Niihama a clean and beautiful city through cooperation between the citizens and city office.

Insurance and tools will be provided by the city.

For further information, please contact the Citizens Department (Shimin-Katsudo-Suishin-Ka), 2nd F of City Hall. Details can be downloaded from the Niihama City Office website.

The city welcomes citizens who are available to regularly clean areas near their houses.

Those involved in the clean-up campaign should have high public awareness and be members of civic groups such as neighborhood associations.

Companies and stores that are willing to clean up areas around their premises are also welcome.

MOVIE

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

September 21 ~	DESPICABLE ME 2	3D Dubbed
October 18 ~	DIANA	2D English · 2D Dubbed
November 1 ~	PERCY JACKSON : SEA OF MONSTERS	2D English · 3D Dubbed
November 1 ~	2 GUNS	2D English
November 15 ~	THE COUNSELOR	2D English · 2D Dubbed
November 29 ~	CAPTAIN PHILLIPS	2D English
November 29 ~	RED 2	2D English

Information Service

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

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

Movies might be changed without notice, so please check beforehand.

· General	¥ 1,800
· Student (college)	¥ 1,500
· Student (Junior or Senior high, Elementary)	¥ 1,000
· Child (3 & up)	¥ 1,000
· A married couple, either one over 50	¥ 2,000
· Senior (60 & up)	¥ 1,000
· The first day of every month	¥ 1,000
· Cine MILEAGE Day (members only, every Tuesday)	¥ 1,300
· Every Wednesday (only for women)	¥ 1,000
· After 20:00 (every day)	¥ 1,200
· The first show on Friday mornings	¥ 1,300
· TOHO Cinemas Day (14 of the month)	¥ 1,000
· The disabled or the helper	¥ 1,000
· 3D	add ¥ 400

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

November Events

Nov. 3rd (Sun.) Maple leaf Festival

Time: 10:10 ~ 15:10

Place: Yuragi no Mori at Besshiyama (0897-64-2252)

Various events will be held.

Nov. 30th (Sat.) and Dec. 1st (Sun.) Cultural Festival

Time: 9:00 ~ 19:00 on Sat. ; 9:00 ~ 15:00 on Sun.

Place: Women's Plaza

Works of art on display, bazaar and so on

Dec. 1st (Sun.) Natural Farm Harvest Festival

Time: 10:00 ~ 12:00

Place: Dome Niihama

Fruits and vegetables for sale

Volunteer Help for The 24th Niihama Global Party to be held next Feb.

Volunteer help in preparation for the 24th Global Party is warmly welcomed. If you are interested, please contact one of the people below.

Enquiry:	Ms. Okame	0897-34-8914
	yasumi@galaxy.ocn.ne.jp	
	Mr. Nakamura	080-3403-3351
	nakamura@niicci.or.jp	

English Library


Check out the English Library in the library at Women's Plaza. Feel free to borrow a book, or drop off any books you are willing to lend.

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

*The editors for this month are K. Kawabata & Y. Okame

ONE POINT JAPANESE

“^{おぼ}覚える”と“^{おも}思^だい出す”

(パーティーで) (At the party)

A : 私^{わたし}のこと、^{おぼ}覚えていますか。

Watashi no koto, oboeteimasu ka.

(Do you remember me?)

B : えーと、どこかで ^あお会いした ような

Eēto, dokoka de oaishita yōna

(Let me see... I think I have seen you somewhere...)

A : 去年^{きょねん}の ^{どうそうかい}同窓会で

Kyonen no dōsōkai de

(At the class reunion last year...)

B : あっ、^{おも}思^だい出した。同じ ^{おな}クラス だった Aさん?

A omoidashita. Onaji kurasu datta A-san?

(Ah, I remember! You're A – we were in the same class?)

先生^{せんせい} : この ^{もんだい}問題は ^{おぼ}しっかり 覚えてください。

Kono mondai wa shikkari oboete kudasai.

(Memorize this question thoroughly.)

明日^{あした}の ^{しけん}試験に ^だ出しますよ。 Ashita no shiken ni dashimasu yo.

(I'll put it on tomorrow 's exam.)

(試験中) (During the exam)

生徒^{せいと} : うーん、昨日^{きのう} ^{がんば}あんなに ^{おぼ}頑張って ^{ぜんぜん}覚えてのに、全然 ^{おも}思い出^だせない。

Uun, kin ō annani ganbatte oboeta noni, zenzen omoidasenai.

(Oh no, I worked so hard to memorize yesterday, but I can't remember anything at all.)

(^{きょうと}京都で) (In Kyoto)

A : いつ ^き来ても、^{きょうと}京都の ^{こうよう}紅葉は すばらしいですね。

Itsu kite mo, Kyoto no koyō wa subarashī desu ne.

(Whenever we come, Kyoto's fall colors are splendid, aren't they?)

B : ええ、ここに ^く来ると、^{はじ}初めての ^{おも}デートを ^だ思い出します。

Ee, koko ni kuruto, hajimete no deto o omoidashimasu.

(Yes. When I come here, I'm reminded of my first date.)

A : ^{なつ}懐かしいですか。 Natsukashī desu ka.

(Does it take you back?)

B : ええ、^{いま}今でも はっきり ^{おぼ}覚えています。

Ee, ima demo hakkiri oboete imasu.

(Yes, I clearly remember even now.)

^{じつ}実は、プロポーズされたのも ^こここなんですよ。

Jitsu wa, puropōzu sareta no mo koko nan desu yo.

(Actually, this is the place where I was proposed to!)

< 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