

# What's New?

Niihama City

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今日はあなたもアイリッシュ

## A day to be Irish

**Gavin Kealy**

March 17th marks the biggest festival in the Irish calendar, the celebration of Saint Patrick's Day. Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, and the person who started the conversion of Irish people from pagans to Christians.

While the event is a celebration of the patron saint of Ireland, it is also a celebration of Irishness in general and is celebrated both as a religious festival and secular one. Today, even in Ireland, it has taken on a less religious role and instead one where people simply celebrate what it is to be Irish. In America, rivers are often dyed green, Ireland's national colour, and around the world, Guinness is served by the bucket load and people take part in Irish music, dancing and sports (collectively called "craic", which means "fun" in Irish). Green clothes are worn by most people as well as a few shamrocks, the symbol of Ireland. A common phrase to hear at this time is one enquiring as to whether the listener has any Irish heritage, commonly, "do you have any Irish in ye?" (Translated directly from the Irish "An bhfuil aon Gaelic aguit?").

While it is certainly an "Irish" festival, it is also celebrated by millions of people of Irish descent in many Western countries around the world, such as England, America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. This history of emigration is the result of a particularly large

famine in Ireland in the 1840s which, in 50 years, through death and emigration, reduced Ireland's population from over 8 million people to fewer than 3 million. While the trend of emigration started with the famine, it has, for various reasons (such as the Irish Civil War, the Troubles and a long tradition of economic hardship), continued into modern times. This has led there to be far more people in other countries of Irish decent than people in Ireland itself; while there are only 4 million people in Ireland, the number of people worldwide with Irish ancestry is upwards of 80 million. In fact, one in every 8 Americans claims Irish ancestry, with 22 American presidents having some Irish blood.

St. Patrick himself, strange as it seems, was not actually Irish. He was a British boy who, at age 16, was abducted from his home in England and brought to Ireland and forced into slavery. He stayed in captivity in Ireland for 6 years before escaping back to England. There, he was ordained a priest, after which he returned to Ireland.

There are many famous stories about St. Patrick. One tells of how he, luckily for us, banished all the snakes from Ireland (we never actually had any in the first place!). Another famous story tells of how he thrust his ash walking stick into the ground before starting to preach to people, but it took so long for the pagan Irish to be won over to his message that by the time he went to retrieve his walking staff, it had grown into a tree!

But the most famous story of St. Patrick involves the shamrock. He is said to have used the shamrock, the three leafed plant, to explain to the Irish the idea of the Holy Trinity, that as the leaves of the shamrock are separate but still parts of the shamrock, Jesus Christ, God and the Holy Spirit are all separate and recognisably different, yet are all aspects in the same God.

There have been claims that St. Patrick is actually the amalgamation of two Irish saints. However, this is unfounded, and any attempt to promote this idea within the borders of the Republic of Ireland is punishable by a prison sentence (although in recent years, many people have been calling for it to be lowered to a mandatory fine instead).

Gavin Kealy is an Irish ALT who works at six senior high schools in Saijo and Niihama. He is also a music composer who enjoys, movies, reading and walks on the beach.

## Notice

Information about the new Resident Registration System for Foreign Residents is available in English,Japanese,Chinese,Portugees and Spanish on the Niihama City Website, It will begin in July 2012,and will replace the current Foreign Registration card system.

Site Address

[http://www.dokidoki.ne.jp/home1/informic/MIC/Foreigner/Info\\_New\\_RegistrationSys\\_Fo.html](http://www.dokidoki.ne.jp/home1/informic/MIC/Foreigner/Info_New_RegistrationSys_Fo.html)

(Matsuyama International Center)

[http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact\\_1/en/index.html](http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_1/en/index.html)

(Immigration Bureau of Japan)

A printed version is available at the Foreign Registration counter on the first floor of the City Office.



### Cherry blossom viewing spots

- ✧ **Takinomiya Park**
- ✧ **Hirose Park**
- ✧ **Yamane Park**
- ✧ **Minetopie Besshi**
- ✧ **Ikeda Pond Park**
- ✧ **Kokuryo Riverside Park**
- ✧ **KuroshimaKaihin Park**
- ✧ **Inariyama Park**

## Do you have your own family doctor?

Your family doctor sees you and gives advice on your health, They know your health condition well and provide health consultations. General hospitals are supposed to provide medical care for patients whose medical condition is rather serious, you have to choose which medical institution to visit.

First go to your family doctor to ask for medical advice.

### **The merits of having a family doctor are:**

1. It doesn't take you long to see your family doctor and get a diagnosis or treatment, the doctor can take more time to see you and explain your condition clearly.
2. You can get a recommendation for a suitable hospital or department when you need further examinations or hospitalization.
3. Your family doctor knows more about your medical condition and the medical history of your family and he can respond quickly in cases of emergency.

### **Keep in mind the following when you go see your doctor.**

4. take your health insurance card.
5. Wear clothes that are easy to put on and take off.
6. Explain correctly the details of your condition.
7. Explain what medicines you are taking and the medical history of you and your family.
8. Ask your doctor as many questions as possible.
9. Get as much information as you can about your disease and decide what is the best treatment available.

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>

## MOVIE

### TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

March 10 ~	Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows	3D	English
March 16 ~	The Iron Lady		English
March 17 ~	Puss In Boots	3D	Dubbed
April 7 ~	TITANIC	3D	English
April 13 ~	BATTLESHIP		English
April 14 ~	JOHN CARTER		English
April 20 ~	Black & White		English
April 28 ~	THOMAS and FRIENDS 2012		Dubbed

#### Information Service

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

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

### Hakuho Wins 22nd Sumo Title!



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<Contributed by **Adam Schartup**>

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles.

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\* The editors for this month are M. Okada & T. Kashimoto

# ONE POINT JAPANESE

## いろいろなオ/マトペ

**A** : <sup>さくら</sup>桜が <sup>ち</sup>散り <sup>はじめ</sup>しましたね。

Sakura ga chirihajimemashita ne.

(The cherry blossoms have started to fall, haven't they?)

**B** : ええ、<sup>はな</sup>花びらが はらはら <sup>おち</sup>落ちるのも <sup>すてき</sup>すてきですね。

Ee, hanabira ga harahara ochiru no mo suteki desu ne.

(Yes. Petals fluttering to the ground are very nice to see.)

**A** : <sup>そうですね</sup>そうですね。池の <sup>いけ</sup>周りを ぶらぶら <sup>ある</sup>歩いて <sup>みま</sup>みましょうか。

Sō desu ne. Ikeno mawari o burabura aruite mimashō ka.

(That's right. Shall we take a stroll around the pond?)

**A** : どうしたんですか。マスクして。

Doshitan desu ka. Masuku shite.

(What's wrong? You're wearing a mask.)

**B** : <sup>じつ</sup>実は、<sup>かふんしょう</sup>花粉症なんです。

Jitsu wa kafunshō nan desu.

(Actually, I have hay fever.)

**A** : <sup>どんな</sup>どんな <sup>しょうじょう</sup>症状 <sup>ですか</sup>ですか。

Donna shōjō desu ka.

(What kind of symptoms do you have?)

**B** : <sup>ひ</sup>日によって <sup>ちが</sup>違いますが、<sup>きょう</sup>今日は <sup>はな</sup>鼻が ズルズル <sup>で</sup>出ています。

Hini yotte chigaun desu ga, kyō wa hana ga zuruzuru deteimasu.

(It's different every day, but today my nose is running.)

**A** : <sup>め</sup>目が <sup>あか</sup>赤いですよ。Mega akai desu yo.

(Your eyes are red.)

**B** : <sup>そうですね</sup>そうですね。

Sō nan desu. (Yes they are.)

<sup>め</sup>目の <sup>まわ</sup>周りが <sup>か</sup>かゆくて、<sup>いつも</sup>いつも カサカサ <sup>して</sup>しているんです。

Meno mawari ga kayukute, itsumo kasaka sashiteirun desu.

(It is itchy around my eyes, and always rough and chapped.)

**A** : <sup>たいへん</sup>大変 <sup>です</sup>ですね。

Taihen desu ne.

(That's awful.)

<sup>あした</sup>明日のお花見、<sup>い</sup>行け <sup>そう</sup>そうですか。

Ashita no ohanami ikeso desu ka.

(Will you be able to go to the Hanami (Cherry-blossom viewing) tomorrow?)

**B** : <sup>い</sup>行きたいけど、<sup>かぜ</sup>風が <sup>つよ</sup>強かったら、<sup>や</sup>やめて <sup>お</sup>おきます。

Ikитай kedo kaze ga tsuyokattara yamete okimasu.

(I wish I could, but if the wind is strong, I won't go.)

**A** : <sup>わ</sup>わかりました。Wakarimashita. (I see.)

<sup>い</sup>行け <sup>そう</sup>そうだったら、<sup>れんらく</sup>連絡 <sup>して</sup>してください。

Ikesō dattara, renraku shite kudasai.

(If you are able to come, please let me know.)

< 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)