

WFWP Scotland/UK held “Experience Japan” at Augustine United Church

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WFWP Scotland/UK held this year’s “Experience Japan” event on Saturday 9th April at Augustine United Church. Through this programme, we introduce Japanese culture and also offer a platform for people to demonstrate Japanese arts and disciplines. 17 volunteers came to help with the event. Several new volunteers joined and assisted this time around.

We had 5 performances (demonstrations); two Karate performances by the Japan Karate association, Shakuhachi (bamboo flute) by Markus Guhe, Nihonbuyou (Japanese traditional dance) by Eriko Takanishi and Kendo demonstrations by Edinburgh University Kendo club members. Stalls were set up for Calligraphy, Origami, Craft sale and a Tombola, and also Green tea, Japanese snacks and Sushi rolls for Tsunami donations. There was also a place for people to try on Kimonos. The event ran from 2 pm to 4 pm.

Due to a sudden problem with the drums, the Drum performers couldn’t be ready for the date. Instead, the Karate performers presented two performances this year – the first and the fourth. They showed different forms with explanations.

The second performance was the Shakuhachi. Markus Guhe played some songs after explanations. The Shakuhachi looks like a bamboo recorder but it sounds like a flute. The sounds create a calm atmosphere and create an image of nature in our mind.

Next was a Japanese traditional dance, Nihonbuyou by Eriko Takanishi. She first showed a dance called “Harusame (spring rain)” using an umbrella. Her second dance, “Seseragi (water flow of a stream)”, used the long white sarashi (cotton cloth) to create an image of water. It was a dynamic dance.

After the second Karate performance, the finale was a Kendo performance by the Edinburgh University Kendo club members. They demonstrated the spirit of martial arts with loud voices and powerful movements.

The audience really enjoyed the performances, and there was a lovely atmosphere. As always, people were happy to taste green tea and enjoyed snacks and sushi rolls as usual.

The proceeds of the event are being donated to Tsunami victims.

Reported by Keiko Fraser-Harris
WFWP Scotland/UK