

# Out&About

## Japanese culture comes to Kirkwall

Visitors to the Orkney Library and Archive enjoyed an experience of all things Japanese on Saturday.

The day was hailed as a huge success, as crowds turned up to try their hand at origami and calligraphy.

Face painting and Japanese dress were part of the programme, and there was also the chance to experience a taste of Japan, quite literally, with an assortment of food and drink available.

*Hibiki Shamisen* — a spell-binding performance by

shamisen master Hibiki Ichikawa, together with folk song and blues singer Akari Mochizuki — also took place in the morning.

The duo told the story of how the shamisen — a three-stringed instrument — came to Japan over 300 years ago, and played some songs especially for Children's Day, which is celebrated in Japan every May 5.

There was standing room only in the MacGillivray Room of the library, as JKA Orkney Karate Club also gave a demonstration of their skills in

the afternoon.

Club instructor Andrew Hamilton gave a short talk on the history of karate and the local club, before a dozen members, ranging from white belt to fourth dan, demonstrated a range of kihon (basic techniques), kumite (sparring), and kata (set forms).

● Hibiki Shamisen's visit was made possible with the support of the OIC Culture Fund, the Japan Society of Scotland, the Pier Arts Centre, the Orkney Library and Blue Earth Works.



**TURNING JAPANESE** — Shamisen master Hibiki Ichikawa (above right) and singer Akari Mochizuki (above left) gave a captivating performance at the library in the morning.

Left: Fiona Lawrie demonstrates the art of origami with Fergus and Erland Bailey.

Right: There was standing room only in the afternoon, as the JKA Orkney Karate Club demonstrated their skills.

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