

# UK Bonsai Association

[www.ukbonsaiassoc.org](http://www.ukbonsaiassoc.org)



**Bulletin  
Jan21**

Wishing everybody a safe and happy new year.

Looking back on 2020 we can only say there's never been a year quite like it, perhaps we should be thankful we were lucky enough to have the Swindon Bonsai Show 25Feb20. Some of us who travelled to Trophy Show in Belgium 29Feb-1Mar20, perhaps in hindsight, realise this might not have been such a good idea. Who could have imagined what was on the horizon? Even though administering of the vaccine has started it seems this is going to take at least another six months to reach the wider population. Most organisers of bonsai events cannot commit to definite dates as everything is so uncertain, leading to many people suggesting this year might well be very similar to last year. We apologise for the sometime lack of content in these latest bulletins, the whole philosophy behind the bulletin is to communicate and help spread information as widely as possible amongst the UK bonsai community. As you might understand this is currently a struggle with most events and clubs on lockdown. Happy to report though that even through this pandemic membership to the Association seems to be snow balling, the month of Dec20 recorded 127 new members, the biggest monthly jump in membership, bringing the total membership to 1368. When the UK bonsai scene eventually returns to some sort of normality then hopefully the wider distribution of the bulletin will energise shows and club nights.

The most important thing right now is our own personal bonsai collection and with this extra time available to us we can improve our trees. With Spring approaching, whether you are ordering something by phone or on line, don't forget we have a very comprehensive list of UK suppliers on the website.

We would like to publicly thank all those who have supported us this last year and whether you put a tree in the virtual show or contributed in some other way to the bulletin or website, a big thank you.

## Virtual UK Bonsai Show

Hopefully the owners of last year's top tree entries will by now have received their respective certificates by post, well done everybody.

Entries for this year's virtual UK bonsai show have started coming in and as per last year we will publish them on the bulletin and on the website as and when we receive them. Due to the current pandemic don't forget we are accepting tree photos as far back as 1Jan19, so don't be shy, send in those entries. Please see the website for further details and guidelines for entering trees and this year, for the first time, pots.

Each category will appropriately have their own Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards, voted for by the membership 1-19Dec21 Results being announced in the bulletin Jan22.

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## Chuhin Tree



**21TC002**

- Species: Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*)
- Origin: GB
- Category: Chuhin
- Style: Informal upright
- Height of Tree: 18.5" / 47cm
- Potter: Erin
- Stand: Unknow
- History: I got the tree from a local garden centre 30 odd years ago, it cost me about £25. It had a large root a third the way up the trunk and lots of crossing branches, as soon as I could it was repotted as the roots where poor and it was in clay. When it had regained its health branches where selected wired and styled, a year later the large trunk root was removed, when the branches had set the wire was removed since then it has been pinched continually to improve ramification.
- Date: 14th Dec 20

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## Mame Pots



**21PM001**

- Category: Mame
- Measurements: 4" x 2.6" x 1.2"
- Note: Dark oxide clay body, one of maker's glaze experiments.
- Date of picture: 2020

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## Shohin Pots



**21PS001**

- Category: Shohin
- Note: this yellow pot is a twelve sided Shohin glazed in a yellow crackle glaze and cloud feet.
- Date of picture: 2020

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**21PS002**

- Category: Shohin
- Note: the oval pots that the maker rarely made
- Date of picture: May20

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**21PS003**

- Category: Shohin
- Measurements: 8"
- Note: it is 8" tall square and decorated with a variety of glazes to build a landscape scene.
- Date of picture: Jan20

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**21PS004**

- Category: Shohin
- Measurements: 8" x 6" x 1.6"  
20.3cm x 15.2cm x 4cm
- Date of picture: 2020

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**21PS005**

- Category: Shohin
- Measurements: 12" x 4" round  
30.5cm x 10.2cm
- Date of picture: 2020

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## Bonsai Events

31Jan21 (~~Cancelled on 13Oct20~~)  
 UK Bonsai Association Auction  
 In conjunction with a  
 Suiseki / Saiki / Mame show  
 Harlington Sports Centre, Pinkwell Lane,  
 Harlington, Middlesex. UB3 1PB.  
 Adm: £3 Children -12 FREE 1100-1600.hrs  
 Contact: Mark Moreland 07850.771201  
 Email: markmoreland@live.co.uk  
 Unfortunately no events scheduled in Jan21.

We completely understand that many shows are currently cancelled or on hold. Keeping the date of a show provisionally marked on the events dairy gives everybody a clear indication of your intentions to hold a show on a particular date when we come out of this pandemic. Please check out UKBA website for the most up todate information on shows.

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## Bonsai Event Reports

Unfortunately no events in Dec20 to report on.

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## Club Speaker Nights

As and when you book a speaker for a physical meeting or organise a zoom meeting, please advise us and we can advertise your night.

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## Notice Board

### UKBA Membership

Thanking you for your support, today 1Jan21 UKBA membership stands at a total of 1368, expanding daily.

### Suiseki UK

After many successful years Alan Harriman is handing Suiseki UK over to Nick Tovey, Alan will still be heavily involved in the UK Suiseki scene, running the Northern Suiseki Group. The new contact details for Suiseki UK will be Alan Tovey 07887.770602  
 Email: nptovey@gmail.com

### Lost And Found

Please don't forget if for any reason your trees go missing, the UKBA website has a lost and found section. At the same time we will publicise the information on the bulletin, therefore maximizing your chances of tracing the lost trees.

### Event Support

If you are brave enough to think about staging a bonsai show in the future, don't forget UKBA has signage to support your event.

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## Monthly Tasks

Below is a list of bonsai tasks to be carried out during the month of January, it must be adapted to your localised conditions and is meant only as a general advisory list of tasks for the bonsai enthusiast.

### Bonsai in January

Hopefully all your bonsai trees are being protected for the winter and here is a quick generic guide to bonsai in January

#### ● Watering

Your bonsai trees will still need watering but not as often as their growth rate has slowed right down so their water uptake has also slowed down.

At this time of year if your trees are still outside, they will be getting watered naturally by the rainfall, morning dew and melting frosts. However, monitor the moisture level to ensure your bonsai trees are not water logged as this can cause roots to rot.

If your bonsai trees are under cover check daily and water if required to keep the soil damp / moist but not soaking wet. Any bonsai being kept indoors should be watered daily if required as they will be loosing moisture due to the higher temperatures inside drying out the soil and the tropical species still tend to grow during the winter period inside. Ideal time to water is in the morning to allow the water time to dissipate and to reduce the surface water should the temperature cool down overnight or there is a frost.

#### ● Re-potting

If the weather is mild repotting can be undertaken but avoid early repotting if you have no protection for the tree like a cold frame or green house if frosts are likely.

Otherwise prepare for repotting by checking soil supplies and also that if you are looking to change the pot that you have the correct pot size to repot into.

#### ● Feeding

Generally feeding in January is not required as broadleaves trees are dormant and conifers or evergreens have slowed down on growth during this period.

However, continue to lightly feed tropical trees that are kept indoors if they are still showing signs of growth to sustain them during this period.

#### ● Pruning

This is a great time of year to review your bonsai trees and check the structural image of the tree as well as the tracery and branch placement. Broadleaved trees are especially easy as they have for most species lost their leaves and are dormant. You can remove unwanted structural branches but remember to cover the wounds with wound paste or sealant as the trees are dormant and will not be able to respond to the pruning as effectively. Otherwise just mark the branch(es) to remove and wait till the Spring to then remove them.

#### ● Trimming

This is not required to either broadleaved or coniferous trees in January. However, you may still need to trim the new shoots off tropical trees that are growing indoors to control the growth and develop ramification.

#### ● Root pruning

Carry out root pruning if you do start to re-pot now as part of the re-potting process and check for soil borne pests, root rot and other root problems and address if any issues are found.

● **Insects and pests**

Continue to check your bonsai trees over fully for pests, insects and diseases as some insects can over winter on or in your trees like red spider mite, scale insect and if you have not applied a winter pesticide or removed unwanted pests before now it is a chance to do so. Pests are also likely if the weather is mild so worth checking to avoid disappointment in the spring when buds or leaves fail to flush due to pest attack.

● **Moss and weed control**

Hopefully you carried out pre winter preparation and addressed any weed and moss issues particularly around the trunks of bonsai trees prior to winter. If not this is again a good time to remove moss and weeds to clear the surface of the soil for improved moisture movement as well as prevent bark rot from wet moss. You can use a range of techniques including a diluted vinegar application on the bark which you apply and then around a week of two later the moss removes more easily with a light brush action (tooth brush works well).

● **Wiring**

If wire is present on your bonsai tree check whether it is still serving a purpose and is taught and not digging into the bark causing wire marks and re-set if necessary or tighten.

● **Protection**

Continue to maintain winter protection in whatever form you use and check your trees daily for effects of frost or snow.

● **Assessment**

This is also a good time to photograph your bonsai trees and update their records for re-potting timings, feeding regimes, soil type etc as it is sometimes hard to keep track of what you do for each tree when you start increasing your collection. Keeping a photographic record does come in very useful over the years to see the trees development and your progress.

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**Collectables**

**Pin Badges**

Please check out the pin badge section under collectables on the website, if you have any badges we have not listed, please send us an image of the badge and we will add it to the section. Thank you

This month we are highlighting pin badges from Australia, see website for more badges.

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**Australian Badges**



Association of Australia Bonsai Club  
National Seminar Canberra 2004  
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Queensland Bonsai Society  
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Campbell Town Bonsai Group  
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South Australian Bonsai Society  
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**Pairs Quiz**

Can you name and match the bonsai enthusiasts with their male partners?



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**Books**

If you can personally recommend a book, old or new and we don't have it listed on the website, please send us an image and the details

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