

# UK Bonsai Association

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



## Bulletin Feb24

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Welcome to this month's Bulletin.

I always look forward to my two bonsai magazines dropping through the door, none of this virtual stuff, a real magazine that I can sit outside with a cup of tea and peruse at my leisure. This month both magazines fell through the door at about the same time and I was delighted to see so many of our UK artists highlighted in one way or another. The Bonsai Focus magazine highlighted an article on Olives by Harry Harrington and then an in-depth interview with Caroline (Caz) Scott. The Bonsai Club International magazine highlighted an article put together by Tony Tickle called 'Women in Bonsai'. This article went into depth introducing us to four ladies of bonsai from around the world and pleased to say one of those women was our own lady, Caroline (Caz) Scott from the UK. Well done to all of you.

In recent times many clubs have chosen to move their club meetings, and therefore talks, to a Saturday or Sunday. With immediate effect we will now change the heading 'Club Speaker Nights' to the new title of 'Club Talks'. We also would like to confirm that Liz Pantan has kindly volunteered to collate this information, so from now on please advise Liz by email of any club talks you want to publicise. Liz Pantan Email: [lizpanton5@gmail.com](mailto:lizpanton5@gmail.com). It's also that time of the year when most Club AGMs have been held and the coming year's programmes are now in place. If your club's invited a speaker and you have room for another few seats in the hall then please make sure that you notify Liz Pantan of the talk. Extra visitors to your club talk can help in many ways, visitors may contribute to the cost of the speaker and the visitor may even become a new member, who knows?

If you can make any contributions to the UKBA website or this news bulletin then please don't hesitate to contact us. Whether a change in

your club location or a trip that you make abroad, why not share with us all?

The next steering group meeting on Zoom is scheduled for Tuesday 06Feb24 at 1900.hrs.

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## Bonsai Events

Feb23 & Mar23

04Feb24 Sun (Confirmed)

Twickenham Bonsai Club Show  
Twickenham School, Percy Road, Whitton,  
Twickenham, Middlesex. TW2 6JW.

Adm: tba. Times:1000-1600.hrs

Contact: Tony Ulatowski 07956.362743

Email: [twickenhambonsaiclub@gmail.com](mailto:twickenhambonsaiclub@gmail.com)

[www.tvbclub.uk](http://www.tvbclub.uk)

11Feb24 Sun (Confirmed)

Swindon Bonsai Society Winter Image Show  
Grange Leisure Centre, Grange Drive,  
Stratton St Margaret, Swindon,  
Wiltshire. SN3 4JY.

Adm: £7. Accompanied under 16.yrs Free.

Times: 1000-1600.hrs.

Cafe refreshments card payment only.

Please visit Swindon website for further details

Contact: Paul Bowerbank 07982.401103

Email: [paul1561@virginmedia.com](mailto:paul1561@virginmedia.com)

[www.swindon-bonsai.co.uk](http://www.swindon-bonsai.co.uk)

Supporting Clubs:

Aka Matsu School of Bonsai, Ashfield Bonsai Society, Bristol Bonsai Society, Eastleigh Bonsai Society, Glynderi Bonsai Society Newbury Bonsai Society, Phoenix Bonsai Group, Splinter Group, Surrey Heath Bonsai Society, Warminster Bonsai Society

Supporting Traders:

Bonsai4Me, Chris Thomas Bonsai, China Mist Bonsai Pottery, Dan Barton Ceramics, Dragonfly Ceramics, Greenwood Bonsai Lee Verhorevoort Bonsai, Mendip Bonsai Studio Stone Monkey Ceramics, Suteki, Walsall Studio Ceramics, Windybank Bonsai, Wood and Clay, Zac's Bonsai

17&18Feb24 Sat & Sun (Confirmed)

Trophy Show

Limburghal cv, Genk, Belgium

[www.bonsaiassociation.be](http://www.bonsaiassociation.be)

25Feb24 Sun (Confirmed)

Doncaster Bonsai Experience  
& The Spring Bonsai Exhibition

Markham Grange Nursery,  
Longlands Lane, Brodsworth,  
Doncaster, South Yorkshire. DN5 7XB.

Adm: Free. Times: 0900-1500.hrs

Contact: John Skill 07818.110978

Email: [doncasterbonsai@gmail.com](mailto:doncasterbonsai@gmail.com)

Supporting Traders:

Akka Bogwood, All Things Bonsai, Banksia, Beechfield, Bon Tag, Bonsai4Me, Bonsai Stow, China Mist, Dave Newman, David Cheshire Nurseries, European Bonsai Potters Collective Every Sproat, Grain Of Time, Green Dragon Holden Ceramics, John Farrow, John Hanby Oceana, RH Bonsai, Tony Remington Studio, Rising Sun, Wakai Trees, Walsall Ceramics Wilderness Bonsai, Wood And Clay And lots more.

09&10Mar24 Sat & Sun (Confirmed)

Dragon Bonsai Spring Show

Open workshop & Clinic

Aberglasney Gardens, Llangathen,

Carmarthenshire, Wales. SA32 8QH.

Adm: £9.50 Children Free

Times: Sat 1000-1600, Sun 1000-1500

Contact: Chris Thomas 07798.798194

Email: [chris.thomas1@sky.com](mailto:chris.thomas1@sky.com)

17Mar24 Sun (Confirmed)

Southend Bonsai Society Spring Show

Ashingdon Memorial Hall,  
Ashingdon Road, Rochford, Essex. SS4 3HF.

Adm: £3. Times: 1000-1600.hrs

Ctc: Paul Schofield 07942.679688

[southendbonsaisociety@gmail.com](mailto:southendbonsaisociety@gmail.com)

24Mar24 Sun (Confirmed)

South East Bonsai Fair

Little Fant Farm, Farleigh Lane,  
Maidstone, Kent. ME16 9LY.

Adm: Free. Times:1000-1500.hrs

Contact: Adam Hadley 07765.522117

Email:[hadoribonsai@gmail.com](mailto:hadoribonsai@gmail.com)

24Mar24 Sun (Confirmed)

Friends Of The National Bonsai Collection  
Bonsai Boot Sale

Birmingham Botanical Gardens,  
Birmingham. B15 3TR.

Adm: FREE. 0800-1200.hrs.

Kim Turton 07760.186522 (Text Only)

Email: [turtonkim@hotmail.com](mailto:turtonkim@hotmail.com)

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We would remind people the status of all events is marked in brackets ie, provisional, postponed, confirmed or cancelled. Whenever visiting an event pleased check for more up to date details on the website and if travelling any great distance, please confirm the event is still running with the event contact person.

We only list on the bulletin events scheduled to take place in the next two months, if you want to know about events further into the future, please visit the main diary on the website.

Thank you

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## Bonsai Event Reports UK

To read the full reports with photos on the events listed below please visit the website. [www.ukbonsaiassoc.org](http://www.ukbonsaiassoc.org)

14Jan24

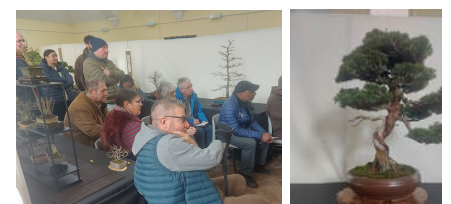
Ayrshire Bonsai Club Winter Image Show



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20Jan24 Sat

Middlesex Bonsai Society Winter Show



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# Trips Abroad

No Trips Abroad this Month

Don't forget if you're travelling abroad and your trip includes something bonsai then please let us know, thank you.

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## Club Talks

01Feb24 Thu (1900-2200.hrs)

Talk by David Penny  
Subject: Saikei.

Northamptonshire Bonsai Society  
Weston Favell Parish Hall, Booth Lane South,  
Weston Favell, Northamptonshire. NN3 3NS.  
Ctc: Richard Boyles 07768.636715  
secretary@northamptonshirebonsaisociety.co.uk  
www.northamptonshirebonsaisociety.org.uk

07Feb24 Wed (1930-2200.hrs)

Talk by Geoff Conybeare  
Subject: Basic Bonsai Techniques.  
Mid-Herts Bonsai Club  
Mead Hall, East Lane, Wheathampstead,  
Hertfordshire. AL4 8BP.  
Ctc: Geoff Conybeare 07396.732817  
Email: info@midhertsbonsaiclub.co.uk

07Feb24 Wed (1930-2230.hrs)

Talk by Mark Moreland  
Subject: Propagating & Miniature Bonsai.  
South East Bonsai Club  
Downswood Community Hall, Chiltern Close,  
Downswood, Maidstone, Kent. ME15 8XG.  
Ctc: Adam Hadley 07765.522117  
Email: bonsaiclubsoutheast@gmail.com

09Feb24 Fri (1930-2200.hrs)

Talk by Will Baddeley  
Subject: Critique & Workshop.  
Ipswich Bonsai Society  
Kesgrave Community Hall, Twelve Acre  
Approach, Kesgrave, Suffolk. IP5 1JF.  
Ctc: Dave Fryer 07749.801297  
Email: daveafryer@aol.com  
www.ipswichbonsaisociety.co.uk

12Feb24 Mon (1900.hrs)

Talk by Mark Moreland  
Subject: Propagating & Miniature Bonsai.  
Chiltern Bonsai Society.  
Booker Memorial Hall, Limmer Lane, Booker  
Common, High Wycombe. HP12 4QS.  
Ctc: Michael Pegg & Adrian Garnett  
Email: mikew.pegg@btinternet.com  
Email: adrian.garnett@virginmedia.com

12Feb24 Mon (2000-2200.hrs)

Talk by Tony Tickle  
Subject: Development Of Raw Material  
Through To An Exhibition  
Manchester Bonsai Society  
Stockport Labour Club, 2 Lloyd Street, Heaton  
Norris, Stockport, Cheshire. SK4 1QP.  
Ctc: Wayne Crumpton 07742.111142  
mbsmembershipssecretary@gmail.com

13Feb24 Tue (1930-2200.hrs)

Talk by Caroline (Caz) Scott  
Subject: Junipers  
Accrington & District Bonsai Society  
New Era Buildings, Harvey Street, Oswaldtwistle,  
Accrington, Lancashire. BB5 3LT.  
Ctc: Diane Kennedy 07799.567692  
Email: dianestardis@icloud.com

13Feb24 Tue (1930-2130)

Talk by Mario  
Subject: Repotting & Pruning  
North London Bonsai Society  
Capel Manor College, Bullsmoor Lane,  
Enfield, Middlesex. EN1 4RQ.

Dec & Jan No Meeting  
Ctc: Ray Powell 01708.340806  
Email: ray-powell@hotmail.co.uk

23Feb24 Fri (1930.hrs)

Talk by Amelia Williams  
Subject: Root Development  
Solent Bonsai Society  
Wallington Village Hall, Broadcut,  
Fareham, Hampshire. PO16 8ST.  
Ctc: Keith Hartley 07847.487435  
Email: kb.hartley@ntlworld.com

23Feb24 Fri (1915.hrs)

Talk by Mark Moreland  
Subject: Propagating & Miniature Bonsai.  
North East Lincolnshire Bonsai Society  
St Giles Church Hall, Church Lane, Scartho,  
Grimsby, Lincolnshire. DN33 2EX.  
Ctc: Ian Butland 07963.470696  
Email: nelbs.chairman@virginmedia.com

05Mar24 Tue (1830-2115.hrs)

Talk by Corin Tomlinson  
Subject: Refinement & Showing Trees.  
Leicestershire Bonsai Club  
Whitwick Park Hall, North Street, Whitwick,  
Coalville, Leicestershire. LE67 5HA.  
Ctc: Paul 'Olly' Olson 07563.283199  
Email: paul.olson174@icloud.com

06Mar24 Wed (1930-2200.hrs)

Talk by Steve Brown  
Subject: Soils, Compost & Other Matters  
Bedfordshire Bonsai Society  
Toddington Village Hall, Leighton Road,  
Toddington, Bedfordshire. LU5 6AN.  
Ctc: Richard Gaiger 07745.507318  
Email: r.gaiger@ntlworld.com

06Mar24 Wed (1945-2200.hrs)

Talk by Mark Moreland  
Subject: Propagating & Miniature Bonsai.  
Surrey Heath Bonsai Society  
Chobham Village Hall,  
Station Road, Chobham, Surrey. GU24 8AQ  
Ctc: Chris Rhodes 01276.20893  
Email: rhodes163@googlemail.com

07Mar24 Thu (1930-2130.hrs)

Talk by Rammon Hamers  
Subject: Tanuki Demonstration  
Ashfield Bonsai Club, Evergreen Club, Cornhill,  
Allestree, Derbyshire. DE22 2FT  
Ctc: Mike Rose 07968.951515  
Email: rosemike1960@gmail.com

09Mar24 Sat (1400-1600.hrs)

Talk by Paul Eslinger  
Subject: tbc.  
North London Bonsai Society  
Capel Manor College, Bullsmoor Lane,  
Enfield, Middlesex. EN1 4RQ.  
Ctc: Ray Powell 01708.340806  
Email: ray-powell@hotmail.co.uk

10Mar24 Sun (0945-1200.hrs)

Talk by Caroline (Caz) Scott  
Subject: Pines & Junipers  
Humberside Bonsai Society  
58 Finkle Street, Kingston Upon Hull,  
Hull, Lincolnshire. HU16 4AZ.  
Ctc: Tony Roberts 01482.565469  
Email: 2tone54tr@gmail.com

11Mar24 Mon (1915.hrs)

Talk by Steve Brown  
Subject: tbc.  
Milton Keynes Bonsai Society  
Reform Synagogue Hall, 1 Hainault Drive, Giffard  
Park, Milton Keynes,  
Buckinghamshire. MK14 5PQ.

Ctc: Simon Roberts 07592.527736  
simon.roberts26@btpenworld.com  
www.mkbonsaisociety.co.uk

14Mar24 Thu (1930-2200.hrs)

Talk by Amelia Williams  
Subject: Penjing  
Chichester & District Bonsai Society  
The Bassil Shippam Centre,  
Tozer Way, St Pancras,  
Chichester, West Sussex. PO19 7LG.  
Ctc: Liz Panton 01798.865551  
Email: lizpanton5@gmail.com

19Mar24 Tue (1930-2200.hrs)

Talk by: Corin Tomlinson  
Subject: Deciduous Bonsai  
National Bonsai Society  
Banks Leisure Centre,  
Greaves Hall Avenue, Banks,  
Southport, Merseyside. PR9 8BL.  
Ctc: Stephen Holland 0151.9338757  
Email: sholland19547@gmail.com

21Mar24 Thu (1930.hrs)

Talk by: David Cheshire  
Subject: tbc.  
Redditch Bonsai Society  
Webbeath Village Hall, Heathfield Road,  
Redditch, Midlands. B97 5SQ,  
Ctc: Richard Gilkes 07803.593024  
Email: ragilkes@blueyonder.co.uk

27Mar24 Wed (1930-2200.hrs)

Talk by Corin Tomlinson  
Subject: tbc.  
Derby & District Bonsai Association  
Grange Hall Community Centre, Park  
Lane, Littleover, Derbyshire. DE23 6FX.  
Ctc: Tony Lloyd 01332.679584  
Email: tlloyd98@gmail.com

28Mar24 Thu (2000-2200.hrs)

Talk by: Tony Tickle  
Subject: tbc.  
South Yorkshire Bonsai Society  
Deepcar Village Hall,  
Helliwell Lane, Deepcar, Sheffield,  
South Yorkshire. S36 2NH.  
Ctc: Graham Morris 0114.2888027  
Email: info@southyorksbonsai.org.uk

28Mar24 Thu (1930-2200.hrs)

Talk by: David Cheshire  
Subject: Rock Planting  
Ambion Bonsai Society  
Hatters Space, Upper Abbey street,  
Nuneaton, Warwickshire. CV11 5DN.  
Ctc: Peter Fielding 07976.271159  
Email: peterfielding1@hotmail.co.uk  
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## Notice Board

24Mar24 Sun

South East Bonsai Fair  
Little Fant Farm, Farleigh Lane,  
Maidstone, Kent. ME16 9LY.  
If you want a trader's pitch at this event,  
please contact Adam Hadley  
07765.522117  
Email: hadoribonsai@gmail.com

14<sup>th</sup> April 24 Sun.

UKBA ExpoBonsai UK 2024.  
If you wish to submit an exhibition tree  
for possible inclusion in the show then  
you need to act immediately.  
Submissions close on February 6<sup>th</sup>. For  
details of how to submit please contact  
Steve Hale at buk18@gmail.com.

04Aug24 Sun  
 Staverton Group Bonsai Boot Sale  
 Opp Long River Farm, New Town Road,  
 Westbury, Wiltshire. BA13 3ED.  
 If you want a trader's pitch at this event,  
 please contact: Tony Oswin 07776.338899  
 Email: Rob - oakfieldbonsai@aol.com  
 or Chris - jeffreyschris@hotmail.com

05&06Oct24 Sat & Sun  
 The Bonsai Show Live 2024  
 Telford International Centre,  
 International Way, Telford,  
 Shropshire. TF3 4JH.  
 We would like to confirm our second  
 demonstrator for this event has now been  
 booked Mauro Stemberger from Italy.  
 Contact: Andrew Avraam 07886.990610  
 Email: info@thebonsaishowlive.co.uk  
 Website: www.thebonsaishowlive.co.uk

Bonsai Club International 2024  
Vol 63 No1 Jan/Feb/Mar24  
 Contact:www.bonsai-bci.com  
 Latest edition highlighting:  
 Oscar Ng of China reporting on 2023 BCI  
 Convention in China.  
 Herbert Obermeyer of Germany reporting on  
 the 14th Cespi Cup 2023 Bonsai & Suiseki  
 Meeting in Italy.  
 Min Hsuan of Taiwan reporting on 25th  
 Taiwan Bonsai Creator Association show at  
 Wanjing Art Garden, Taiwan.  
 Tony Tickle of UK an article celebrating  
 woman in Bonsai.  
 Joe Grande of Canada reporting on Bjorn  
 Bjorholm's journey with a famous Itoigawa  
 juniper called Tornado.  
 Andrea Bruse of Italy traces the journey of  
 Red a Red Spruce.  
 Pierre Leloup of Italy crafting a daiza.

Bonsai Focus Magazine 2024 Jan/Dec 186/209  
 Contact:www.bonsaifocus.com  
 Latest edition highlighting:  
 Harry Harrington of the UK talks about taking  
 a risk with olives.  
 Masayuki Fujikawa of Japan transforms a  
 black pine.  
 Lorenzo Penello of Italy talks about pots.  
 Junichiro Tanaka of Japan works on an  
 imported Taiwan Juniper.  
 Caroline (Caz) Scott of the UK gives an  
 interview.  
 Harumi Ishii of Japan refining shohin.  
 Report on the 14th Cespi Cup 2023 Bonsai &  
 Suiseki Meeting in Italy.

Bristol Bonsai Society  
 With immediate effect Nigel Turner will be the  
 main contact for Bristol Bonsai Society.  
 Ctc: Nigel Turner 07918.602306  
 Email: bbs-site@outlook.com  
[www.bristolbonsaisociety.wordpress.com](http://www.bristolbonsaisociety.wordpress.com)

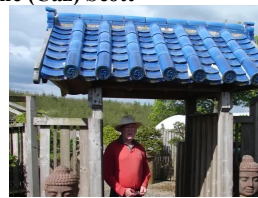
Cornwall Bonsai Society  
 From Cornwall Bonsai Society: "It is with  
 profound sorrow that we share the  
 heartbreaking news of the passing of our dear  
 friend and longstanding member, Robert  
 Bainbridge, on January 2, 2024. Robert was an  
 integral part of our bonsai community, and his  
 loss is deeply felt by us all.  
 Robert's witty humour and positive spirit made  
 every meeting a joyous occasion. His laughter  
 and camaraderie will be greatly missed."  
 --- Phil Bishop Cornwall Bonsai Society

House Of British Bonsai & Yamadori  
 New to the trader's listings this month  
 Eugene Korn  
 Email: guide@hobbyinfo.co.uk  
 www.hobbyinfo.co.uk

Majestic Bonsai  
 New to the trader's listings this month  
 Lee Fincham  
 Tel: 07760.760911  
 Email: leefinchambonsai@gmail.com  
 www.majesticbonsai.co.uk

Stourbridge Bonsai Society  
 Unfortunately, Stourbridge Bonsai Society has  
 officially shut down as we have been unable to  
 form a new working Committee. However, the  
 former members will continue to meet on an  
 unofficial basis for the foreseeable future on the  
 second Sunday of the month at the Bonded  
 Warehouse. Thank you  
 Rod White Stourbridge Bonsai Society

Willowbog Bonsai Closure: the end of an era.  
 By Caroline (Caz) Scott



I was asked to write an article about Willowbog  
 Bonsai who very recently announced their  
 decision to close after 29 years.



Willowbog is such a special place, an institution  
 in the world of bonsai. It is where I and many  
 others discovered the joys of bonsai and where  
 we worked with some of the best bonsai artists  
 from Europe and the USA.  
 Willowbog was opened in 1994 by Peter and  
 Jean Snart. Peter being a retired lumberjack  
 for the Forestry Commission in Kielder Forest  
 in Northumberland has always had a passion  
 for trees. After his Wife, Jean, gifted him a  
 book about bonsai for Christmas, the obsession  
 which turned a hobby into a centre of  
 excellence for British Bonsai was born.  
 Peter wasn't satisfied just selling a few little  
 trees and sundry items, it was more than that.  
 Willowbog became very well known for the  
 fantastic pieces of raw material that Peter  
 would collect himself. Larch, Lodgepole pine,  
 spruce, beech and hemlock. He would travel  
 around the country and Europe selling these  
 amazing bits of raw material.



Many have since been turned by great artists  
 into show stopping pieces. Highly in demand,  
 people would await his arrival at the  
 Noelanders Trophy to buy trees as he unloaded  
 his van. Peter's devotion to bonsai was clear.

But yet again, just selling great trees was  
 a small part of Peter and Jean's legacy.  
 What they brought to the table in terms  
 of teaching as well as a seat of learning is  
 legendary.



All the big names on the European and  
 American bonsai scene came to  
 Willowbog to pass on their experience  
 and knowledge, Marco Invernizzi, Ryan  
 Neil, Peter Warren, Marc Noelanders,  
 Kevin Willson, Salvatore Liporace, Peter  
 Adams and many more. Workshops  
 were extremely popular and attracted  
 people from far and wide. A little later a  
 bonsai school was formed led by Marco  
 Invernizzi.



The British Shohin Association, formed  
 by myself, originated at Willowbog and  
 its biannual show was held there for  
 many years. Enthusiasts from all over  
 the country and further afield would  
 visit Willowbog as a nursery, as a  
 training centre and as an exhibition.



I suppose, like everything, all great  
 things come to an end. Peter and Jean  
 have announced the closure of the  
 nursery at the end of June this year. It  
 will be, for many, the end of an era. A  
 nursery that will be sorely missed by a  
 vast array of enthusiasts from newbie's  
 to old hands.



I have been a regular, a 'Willowbogger',  
 for about 25 of those 29 years. A part of  
 me will be gone. Gone but most definitely  
 not forgotten.  
 Peter and Jean have given so much to the  
 world of bonsai. I for one would like to  
 thank them for that and wish them the  
 very best and happiest retirement which  
 they so richly deserve.  
 ---  
 Caroline (Caz) Scott

UKBA Membership  
 Thanking you for your support, today  
 1Feb23 UKBA membership stands at a  
 total of 2936 Have we lost a few!!!  
 expanding daily



# Monthly Tasks

Below is a list of bonsai tasks to be carried out during the month of February, 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 February

February in the Northern Hemisphere is still classed as winter and it is a difficult month to predict the weather especially as the mild then cold conditions seem to be prevailing.

## 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 losing 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:

This is for most bonsai enthusiasts the key repotting month, which can then go on into March as the broadleaved trees are generally dormant and have yet to start pushing new growth.

If the weather is mild then repotting can be undertaken but avoid early repotting if you have no protection for the tree such as 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. Evergreen trees should be repotted in later months as opposed to February.

## Feeding:

Generally, feeding in February is not required as broadleaved trees are dormant.

Conifers or evergreens have slowed down on growth during this period but you could still apply a light feed that is a low nitrogen or nitrogen free fertiliser. 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 on broadleaved trees 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 February. 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 overwinter on or in your trees such as 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 or 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 taut and not digging into the bark causing wire marks and re-set if necessary or tighten. Application of new wiring can be applied to broadleaved trees during February if required.

## 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.

## Grafting trees:

This is the ideal time to start grafting Pines and Evergreens.

## Sowing Seeds:

If you plan to start sowing seeds in spring, then it is an ideal month to start the preparation of the seeds subject to their stratification requirements as some need up to 6 to 8 weeks of stratification prior to sowing.

## Collecting / Lifting trees:

This is an ideal time to lift trees out of raised beds or collect trees from the wild (only from approved sites though). The majority of tree species are dormant during winter so from October through to March is the ideal lifting time period.

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## Interview

UKBA Interview With  
Jeff Banning



“Why me?” I asked myself when you posed the question “Would you contribute an interview to the UKBA Bulletin?” At first I wondered whether this was because a bonsaist based in Scotland may be considered some sort of mythical creature worth exploring (like a Yeti), but then I thought “well there are more notable Scottish figures in the hobby” so the only conclusion was that you thought the readers may be interested in the history of a ‘journeyman’ bonsaist – for that is what I consider myself to be.

I don’t say that with any sense of self deprecation because there are lots of us out there and my interest in bonsai has given me a great enjoyment and satisfaction over the years which I suspect stems from the realisation that you don’t have to

be expert at something, or reach the heights of international stardom, in order to enjoy it.



Acer palmatum “Yamamomiji” . Nanakan or Kabudachi style, depending on your [point of view. I am now trying to grow a Trident maple in this style from scratch

## So, how did you get started?

I started late, and can pinpoint the time exactly. It was 2003 and I was 53 years old. Up until then my job had involved much moving about all over the UK and with stints abroad in Africa, Switzerland and Germany so my hobbies consisted of only things that I could carry with me – football boots, calligraphy pens, golf clubs, guitar – you get the picture. But in 2003 I made what I thought was my final move, and when I was working out what to take with me I found myself reluctant to leave behind the Deshojo maple that I had recently purchased and planted in my new garden. After all, it did cost me £7.50 and I wasn’t going to give that up easily! So, into a pot it went and off to the village of Hartley Wintney in Hampshire I went. Hartley Wintney is very close to RHS Wisley and on a visit there I saw Peter Chan’s bonsai display. I am bound to say that it had a big impact and the seed was planted (sorry) – my Deshojo maple would become one of these wonderful bonsai (not in actuality it turned out, more in aspirational terms)!



Receiving the award for the best in show stand at Gardening Scotland in 2017 alongside. A repeat of the team’s success the previous year. in 2017!

## How did you take the next step?

As a beginner I was very conscious of my ignorance and I wasn’t much of a ‘joiner’ (some say a miserable git) so I generally resorted to books rather than opting to find a club. However, my biggest step forward was being directed by the Wisley Enquiry Desk to Peter Trenear’s bonsai nursery in Eversley. There I spent many happy hours browsing what had become by then a semi-chaotic, and so rather intriguing, place to visit in what were Peter’s later years, although he was still actively pursuing the hobby and happy to pass on his many years of experience and sell me a few pieces of raw material in the process.

In those early days Wisley also hosted an annual, relatively small, two-day bonsai event with displays, traders and classes and I was lucky to receive my first formal instruction from both Peter Chan and Ken Norman. My first class with Peter was rather daunting as my ‘stick in a pot’ Deshojo compared relatively unfavourably



(an under-statement) with some of the other trees present. I distinctly recall arriving so early for the class that I had to sit in my car in the car park waiting for the Wisley gates to open and seeing a car pull up alongside. Out of the car stepped a guy with a large and statuesque conifer (I recall it was a Wellingtonia but cannot be too sure). What I do recall is the strong urge to start the car, bolt for home and safety from ridicule. However, as I had already paid (you may see a theme appearing at this point) I was reluctant to sacrifice the opportunity so I persevered. As expected the Deshojo didn't get rave reviews, to put it mildly, so I was relieved that at both of the classes I attended with Ken Norman he provided the work material – the first a garden azalea and the second a Scots pine.

I think that this was a great idea that I haven't seen repeated since. Beginners signing up for workshops are often, in my experience, nervous about the quality of what they have and lack the knowledge about or access to decent workshop material – even these days! I have seen examples where beginners roll up with totally unsuitable materials and then derive limited benefit from the workshop.

It also taught me something about how to prepare beginners for workshops when I got to the stage of organising them.



Hawthorn grown from an air layer in 2015.

#### What happened next?

A move back to Scotland in 2011 and the discovery that the Ayrshire Bonsai Club met just 100 meters away from where I lived in the village of Alloway just outside Ayr on the West Coast of Scotland. Despite my isolationist leanings I joined up straight away and haven't been expelled yet!

#### What mistakes have you made?

If I am not careful this could turn out to be my longest section! So, I will limit myself to just one - the most important one - which was to not join a club earlier. This meant that my previous 8 years had produced little improvement in my skills or the quality of my trees. This was highlighted to me by the fact that I spent £600 to hire a 'man with a van' to specifically move my trees from Hampshire to Scotland only to find that they were – lets be kind and say – lacking in health and quality compared to the club trees I became familiar with up here. I only have two of those trees now – Ken Norman's azalea and the Deshojo which started me down the path, much battle-scarred and structurally inadequate, but sentimentally my most important tree. I cannot emphasise enough the benefits of being a member of a group, it just transformed my experience and enhanced my skills no end. The elder statesmen of our club (I have to mention them : Alex Harrison, John Goldsmith and Ian McDougall) have been generous with their support and advice. I don't think that, even in these days of the internet, there is any substitute for regular face to face learning.



Japanese black pine, neagari style. Brought back to life over the last 8 years after years of neglect when the previous owner fell ill.

#### What is your best achievement?

I guess that the things that I am most proud of are the things I feel like I have contributed to the development of the hobby in Scotland over the years as both treasurer and convener of our local club and as President of the Scottish Bonsai Association.

I admit that I haven't achieved much individually in the wider world of bonsai – the best being awarded "Best in Show" at Gardening Scotland in 2019 - but during my time as Convener our club won back-to-back best in show awards at both the Ayrshire Flower Show and Gardening Scotland (Scotland's Chelsea equivalent) two years running 2016 and 2017. Sadly neither of these shows now exist. A sign of the times I'm afraid. Since 2013 I have led our club's hosting of the annual Scottish National Bonsai Exhibition on behalf of the Scottish Bonsai Association. I am proud that we managed to improve the quality of the show, year on year, increasing attendance and raising the profile of the hobby considerably. The bonsai community in Scotland is not extensive, probably no more than 250 in total spread across the Scottish Bonsai Association, independent clubs and "individuals in sheds" (or greenhouses) many of whom are at the higher end of the age range so it is tremendously important to keep refreshing and, if possible, expanding membership. Perhaps the one thing that I am most proud of is that during my 5 years as president of the Scottish Bonsai Association membership increased by 19%.



Winning Best in Show for my black pine at Gardening Scotland 2019!

#### Do you find that you have favourites - for tree types or potters?

Not really. I grow trees that I like but the problem is that I like variety and so have to have at least one of each type which means that my collection hovers around the 100 mark despite efforts to reduce it. Living in Scotland means that there is a strong attachment to the Scots Pine as there are so many impressive examples in the wild to admire and attempt to replicate. As a result I have more of those than any other type but I also have a weakness for Hawthorn.

As for potters there are so many good examples around it would just be so hard to choose – even if I did some of them are so far out of my price range now. We are fortunate that our club has two members who make bonsai pots: Peter Klebo (Catrine Ceramics) and Barry Somerville. They make great pots so I do have a lot of theirs. Ian Baillie is another favourite and is almost local so I usually cannot resist buying one of his pots when I get the chance. My weakness (like many) is that I buy pots that I like but not those for which I have trees making the matching process somewhat problematical.



Japanese larch, mother and child style. I love the elegance of this tree.

#### What is the most important thing you have learned?

Those of us involved in clubs or groups know just how difficult it is these days to maintain membership – never mind increase it – so my big learning is that this can only happen via committed leadership and constant innovation to provide an attractive proposition for budding (sorry again) bonsaists.

I think that I have also learned a lot about myself and the world around me through the hobby.

Funnily enough, most members of the public comment on the requirement for patience rather than the skill. Many say to me: "You must be so patient?" to which my wife responds: "You haven't seen him driving a car!"



Field maple. Purchased from Willowbog Bonsai 10 years ago on one of many visits. I always have difficulty classifying the style.

#### Have you experienced bonsai abroad?

In a limited sort of way – I managed to organise several visits to bonsai nurseries around a holiday in Japan and spent two days at the excellent, but unfortunately the last, Saulieu show. Other than that I do hunt out bonsai dealers/nurseries/exhibits etc. whenever I am away. I did find a bonsai nursery down an alley in the centre of Nice on one of my visits – it's amazing sometime where you find them!

I probably don't go to as many shows as I should (the old git syndrome again). I enjoyed Tony Tickle's shows tremendously and Bonsai Live (which I will attend again this year) but have yet to make the Expo.



Meeting Tomohiro Masumi at his nursery in Kyoto on my trip to Japan. It was almost torture seeing so many nice trees and not being able to bring any back with me.

#### Do you consider bonsai an art form?

It's interesting - I am not sure whether most hobbyists really think too much about that. What I think they care about is enjoying the process and sharing the results with others.

I believe that there are bonsaists with vision, imagination and creativity who can

create works of art and quite justifiably be termed artists but that there are also artisan bonsaists - people with knowledge and skill who can create an attractive and realistic image but not to the same level of originality or refinement. Then I think that there are "journeymen bonsai", people like myself who are keen but only aspiring to "artisan" level. I never tell people which category I think they are in!!



My first attempt at a Shohin display. Shows why I have a goal to improve!

Why would you say that you practice bonsai?  
I would say it's because I find it therapeutic, relaxing and enjoyable. There is something about being lost in the process and seeing occasional creative success that more than compensates for the occasional mishaps. Strangely enough, alongside the solitude, I find that I also enjoy the companionship of people with similar interest – there is hope for the old git yet! I enjoy organising things and I think that may be why the club members still let me attend.



Western hemlock, informal upright obtained from Ray Coulombe in 2013 on my way down to the Bonsai Traders Fair in Coventry in 2013 - still going strong (the tree - not sure about Ray).



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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 four badges from around the world.

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### Badges



Le Jardin Japonais

Country: France  
Image supplied by Mingchen Moreland

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Avon Bonsai Society 1993

Country: New Zealand  
Image supplied by David Smith

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Otago Bonsai Society

Country: New Zealand  
Image supplied by David Smith



Waltham Forest Bonsai Club

Country: United Kingdom  
Image supplied by David Swinhard

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## Books

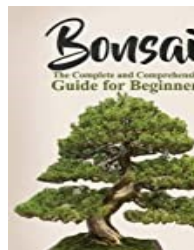
The book section on the website can be found in the knowledge section, we have nearly sixty books listed and ask kindly if you can recommend a book, old or new and we don't have it listed on the website, please email us an image, the title of the book, the authors name, the date published, the ISBN (International Standard Book Number) and of course can we use your name or do you want to be anonymous?



Andres Bicocca  
Deadwood Design  
Published: 2023  
ISBN: Unknown

Image supplied by Roger Binfield

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Kaito Tanaka

Bonsai / Guide For Beginners  
Published: 2019

ISBN: 9781951345112

Image supplied by Rober Binfield

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Werner Busch

Indoor Bonsai For Beginners

Published: 2005

ISBN: 1844033503

Image supplied by Nigel Bevard

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David Squire

Bonsai

Published: 2016

ISBN: 9781580117586

Image supplied by David Squire

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## UKBA Quiz Jan24

Code Word

Simply work out the cipher to name the 13 trees.

To help you get started W=23 and J=18  
(Hint E's are the commonest letter)

A=	3 22 13 14	N=
B=	18 25 1 3 10 13 4	O=
C=	26 13 5 7 4	P=
D=	7 10 10 22 13	Q=
E=	24 7 10 22 13	R=
F=	21 13 23	S=
G=	16 13 22 20 6 2 7	T=
H=	13 22 24	U=
I=	23 3 19 12 13 4 3 7	V=
J= 18	11 13 13 26 15	W= 23
K=	11 3 4 26 15	X=
L=	9 3 17	Y=
M=	8 25 3 1 26 13	Z=

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## Answers to Jan24 Quiz

Taxodiaceae:

Yew, Redwood, Swamp Cypress, Cryptomeria, Hemlock

Pinaceae:

Larch, Cedar, Spruce, Pine, Fir

Rosaceae:

Blackthorn, Quince, Pear, Crab apple, Rowan

Fragaceae:

Oak, Beech, Southern Beech

Oleaceae:

Ash, Privet

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