

# UK Bonsai Association

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



## Bulletin Jan23

Welcome to this month's Bulletin.

May we wish everybody a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

At the time of putting this bulletin together the climatologists have just confirmed some of the statistics for the UK last year. Many records have been broken. We all experienced some very hot weather in Jul22 followed by extreme low temperatures in Dec22. In fact, on 19Jul22 the highest UK temperature ever recorded was measured at 40c and the year as a whole has turned out to be the warmest on record. All around the world unseasonal weather conditions have been taking place, extremes of all types. Our bonsai come in all shapes and sizes, the smaller specimens especially will need more devoted care and protection if not getting so already. The established seasonal changes are still happening, but within the expected norms we now seem to find bigger and quicker fluctuations within the weather, whether it be the temperature, rain or wind.

Last year was a very positive year for UK bonsai, we thankfully returned to a busy schedule of events and apart from the Swindon Show in Feb22 everything went ahead as scheduled. We are pleased to observe that this coming year is looking even busier and now is the time to cross check your personal diary with the UKBA events diary on the website. Don't forget it's much cheaper to book those hotel bedrooms well in advance, leaving it to the last minute can prove expensive. Whenever travelling to an event please double check the events diary, we update this diary immediately we receive any changes from the organisers.

It's that time of year when clubs hold their AGM's or put together the year's programmes. We would ask kindly if you could check your club details are up to date on the UKBA website and if anything has changed please advise. As and when you confirm your programmes for this year, please advise any club speaker nights open to public visitors. We try to keep the UKBA website as up to date as possible but would like to remind societies how important it is to keep their own websites up to date.

The next steering group meeting on Zoom is scheduled for Tuesday 10Feb22 at 1900.hrs.

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## Bonsai Events

Jan23 & Feb23

8Jan23 Sun (Confirmed)  
Ayrshire Bonsai Group

Winter Image Event (& Pot Sale)  
Alloway Village Hall,  
36a Alloway, Ayr,  
South Ayrshire, KA7 4PY.  
Adm: Free. Times: 1330-1630.hrs  
Contact: Jeff Banning 07799.477895  
Email: jeffbanning@btinternet.com

22Jan23 Sun (Confirmed)  
UK Bonsai Association Auction  
In conjunction with a  
Suiseki / Saikei / Mame show  
Sandhurst School,  
Owlsmoor Road, Owlsmoor,  
Sandhurst, Berkshire. GU47 0SD.  
Adm: £3 cash. Children -16 FREE  
Times: 1100-1600.hrs  
The auction is strictly cash only please.  
Please visit the auction website for further  
details and to view the auction lots.  
[www.ukbonsaiauction.weebly.com](http://www.ukbonsaiauction.weebly.com)  
Email: ukbauction@gmail.com  
Contact: Mark Moreland 07850.771201

5Feb23 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  
[www.twbclub.uk](http://www.twbclub.uk)  
Supporting Traders:  
Collette's Bonsai  
European Bonsai Pot Collective  
Springwood Ceramics

19Feb23 Sun (Confirmed)  
Swindon Bonsai Society Winter Image Show  
Grange Leisure Centre, Grange Drive,  
Stratton St Margaret, Swindon,  
Wiltshire. SN3 4JY.  
Adm: £5 (Cash). 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  
[www.swindon-bonsai.co.uk](http://www.swindon-bonsai.co.uk)  
Supporting Clubs:  
Aka Matsu School of Bonsai  
Ashfield Bonsai Society  
Bristol Bonsai Society  
Glynderi Bonsai Society  
Newbury Bonsai Society  
Phoenix Bonsai Group  
Solent Bonsai Society  
Splinter Group  
Surrey Heath Bonsai Society  
Warminster Bonsai Society  
Supporting Individuals  
27 Individual Invited Guests  
10 brand new to the show  
Supporting Traders:  
Bon Tag  
Chris Thomas Bonsai  
Dan Barton Ceramics  
David Sampson  
Green Dragon Bonsai  
Lee Verhorevoort Bonsai  
Mendip Bonsai Studio  
Paul Rogers Ceramic  
Stone Monkey Ceramics  
Suteki  
Tony Remington  
Walsall Studio Ceramics

Windybank Bonsai  
Wood & Clay, Dan Butler  
Zac's Bonsai

25&26Feb23 Sat & Sun (Confirmed)  
Trophy Show  
Limburghal cv, jaarbeurslaan 6, B-3600  
Genk, Belgium  
[www.bonsaiassociation.be](http://www.bonsaiassociation.be)

26Feb23 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  
Supporting Traders:  
Many

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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 please 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

Unfortunately there were no events in Dec22.

## Bonsai Shows Abroad

Unfortunately there were no events abroad in Dec22 reported on.

## Trips Abroad

Unfortunately there were no trips abroad in Dec22 reported on.

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

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## Club Speaker Nights

11Jan23 Wed (1930.hrs)  
Talk by Chris Thomas  
Subject: Larch Group  
Somerset Bonsai Society  
Bishop Henderson Primary School,  
Henderson Close, Taunton TA1 4TU  
Ctc: Michael Cooper 01458.210796  
Email:coopersstudio@btopenworld.com

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## Notice Board

Taunton & Somerset Bonsai Club  
From immediate effect the club will be known as Somerset Bonsai Society all other details remain the same.

Bishop Henderson Primary School,  
Henderson Close, Taunton TA1 4TU  
2nd Wed Monthly. 1930-2100.hrs  
Ctc: Michael Cooper 01458.210796  
Email:coopersstudio@btopenworld.com  
www.somersetbonsaiclub.uk

22Jan23 Sun

UK Bonsai Association Auction

In conjunction with a

Suiseki / Saikei / Mini-Bonsai show

Sandhurst School,

Owlsmoor Road, Owlsmoor,

Sandhurst, Berkshire. GU47 0SD.

Adm: £3 cash. Children -16 FREE

Times: 1000-1600.hrs

Live auction for items over £50

Silent auction for items under £50

Please submit your items before 15Jan23.

Strictly cash only at this event please.

Anybody wishing to exhibit at the show please

contact : markmoreland@live.co.uk

Anybody wishing to put something in the

auction, please contact:

ukbaauction@gmail.com.

General information visit the website

www.ukbonsaiauction.weebly.com

16Apr23 Sun

UKBA Expo Bonsai UK 2023.

K2 Leisure Centre,

Pease Pottage Hill, Crawley,

West Sussex. RH11 9BQ

IMPORTANT: Submissions to display

technically close on December 31st. We have

been made aware however that some possible

entrants have been having problems with their

photography due to the weather. To be fair to

these people we will still consider applications

until January 7th despite already starting to

select chosen trees for the exhibition. To submit

trees for consideration please

contact ebuk18@gmail.com. Selections of

submissions will be finalised during January.

Thank you.

14May22 Sun (Confirmed)

New to the events diary

Kent Bonsai Society Show

Dunkirk Village Hall, London Road,

Dunkirk, Kent. ME13 9LG.

Adm: £2. Times:1000-1600.hrs

Contact: Adrian Long 07710.615861

Email: adrian58@long@btinternet.com

www.kentbonsaiclub.weebly.com

### UKBA Membership

Thanking you for your support, today 1Jan22

UKBA membership stands at a total of 2404,

expanding daily

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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 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:

If the weather is mild re-potting can be undertaken but avoid early re-potting 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 until 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 of 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, 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 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 taut 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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## Interview

UKBA Interview with  
Stewart Beresford



Ryoan-ji, my favourite garden in Kyoto

### How did you get started?

Early in the 80's my interest in bonsai was sparked by a picture I came across which I found fascinating. There was not much information around then and it was a slow process but I started attending monthly meetings of the British Bonsai Association in Stockwell, South London around 1986 where I met Colin Lewis, Peter Chan and, most importantly Ken Leaver.

### How did you learn about bonsai?

Initially through books and then from attending British Bonsai Association meetings. I also subscribed to Bonsai magazine, which became Bonsai Focus from the first issue until a couple of years ago.

### Who was your teacher?

I got to know Ken Leaver at the BBA and started to visit his nursery on a regular basis. From the start Ken was always very helpful and supportive and still is to this day. In 2007 Ken suggested attending workshops at Windybank with Nobuyuki Kajiwara which I did doing 4 workshops a year with Nobu right up until he returned to Japan in 2019.



Workshop with Nobu

### What was the most important thing you learned from him?

Nobu had a very naturalist approach to bonsai, he taught not to rush trees and develop them as a tree would in the wild rather than excessive use of wire to bend branches unnaturally. Styling was very much secondary to the health of the tree.

### Do you belong to a bonsai club.

After the demise of the British Bonsai Association it was a long while before I joined another club but in 2010 I joined Sutton Bonsai Society where I am still a member and in 2018 I also became a member of the Splinter Group.

### Your thoughts on bonsai or dreams?

Over the years I've become fascinated with all aspects of bonsai, especially the displaying of trees. This has led me to appreciating bonsai pots, accents, tables, suiseki and scrolls and to visit Japan regularly over the last 15 years or so.

### Do you consider bonsai an art form?

My initial response is 100% yes, but on reflection it is the combination of the horticultural skills to keep trees healthy and the creative skills to identify and develop the potential of the tree. I'm still working on this.

### Why do you do bonsai?

As I've said already I just find them fascinating. You are always learning, always looking to get better in the knowledge that there is always more to learn.

### Do you have a favourite tree species or size of tree?

I like native trees such as hawthorns, blackthorns and Scot's pines but I also like Japanese black pines very much. I have all sizes of trees but would stick with shohin if I had to pick one size. They are easier to handle, particularly as I get older, but harder to show given that they are generally displayed in groups etc.

### Do you have a favourite bonsai?

This changes on a fairly regular basis but normally comes back to my chuhin black pine that I have had for a long while now. A few years ago I got a little disenchanted with it as the needles had grown too long (my fault for over feeding too early) so I decided to sell the tree to fund another trip to Japan. Fortunately as it turned out the prospective purchaser let

me down after months of promises so I kept the tree and am glad I did now.



My black pine at Hampton Court flower show. On the FOBBs stand by Sutton Bonsai Society. It would have been lovely to have displayed the tree on the Doug Mudd stand that I have for it but not practical.

### Do you have a favourite potter?

Luckily our visits to Japan have included visiting many potteries particularly around Tokoname. One of my favourite potters is Aiba Koichirou of Koyo Toen who sadly passed away about a year ago. The kiln is now run by his son Aiba Kuniaki (Juko) who also makes great pots. Another favourite Tokoname potter is Yuzikyoku Nakano of the Gyouzan kiln who we have visited four times now and who was kind enough to let my wife make a pot with him. A real treat.

I now have a Gyouzan pot for my black pine as well as some shohin pots in my collection, he really does make superb pots. Back home in the UK I would say that Gordon Duffett is my favourite potter. Until he moved to the West Country Gordon lived not far from me so it was very easy to take trees to Gordon and discuss what pot would work best. Dan Barton also makes great pots of course and I also have a soft spot for Bryan Allbright pots. I first met Bryan at Wisley when they held bonsai shows there in the 1990's. I liked one pot very much but did not have enough cash in the days before plastic cards and Bryan said to take the pot and send him a cheque later. Given that I had never met him before I thought that was a very kind thing to do and something I will always remember.



Aiba Koichirou, holding a suiban, now a prized possession



Christine making a pot with Yukizyou Nakano (Gyouzan)

### What mistakes have you made?

The obvious answer is too many to mention but among them are not being patient enough with trees, trying to push them too quickly. I am also not blessed with the best of memories and forget lessons I have learned and have to learn them again. All the workshops I did with Nobu were great for getting back to basics and refocusing.

### Have you experienced bonsai abroad?

We usually plan our trips to Japan to coincide with shows there so I have been to Kokofu ten, Taikan ten and Gafu ten among others as well as visiting the World Convention in Saitama in 2017. I've also been to shows in Europe including the Trophy in Belgium on a regular basis.



World Bonsai Convention, Saitama

### Can you recommend one or two bonsai books?

Back in the early days there was no internet and few books available. The book I found the most useful was Dan Barton's simply called "The Bonsai Book" and now recently re-issued I believe. Of recent books Peter Warren's is certainly worth looking at.

### What is your best achievement?

I'm not sure I've got one really, I've displayed at most of the major shows in the UK over the last 10 years or so, so I suppose it is having sufficient trees of a good enough standard to do so. That and being invited to join the Splinter Group.



Scots pine at Expo 2019

### Do you have any future ambitions or goals?

To get back to Japan asap and keep working on my trees.

### Over the years what has been your favourite bonsai show?

My favourite show is definitely Gafu ten, the annual shohin show in Kyoto. We've visited 4 times now and if all goes to plan will get there again in January. The other outstanding show was the World Convention in Saitama in 2017,

the first time it had been held in Japan for 20 years.

Do you have any other interests or hobbies?  
Before bonsai took over I was heavily into match fishing which took me all over England competing in matches every Saturday and Sunday until I was in my 50's and a bad back forced me to stop. I still go pleasure fishing occasionally but not when the weather is too cold.

----- Stewart Beresford

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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 decorative badges from around the world.

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### Badges



Silver Bonsai

Image supplied by Dan Barton

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Gold Bonsai

Image supplied by Dan Barton

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Silver Bonsai

Image supplied by Paul Bowerbank

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Silver Bonsai

Image supplied by Dan Barton

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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?



Kenji Murata & Keija Murata

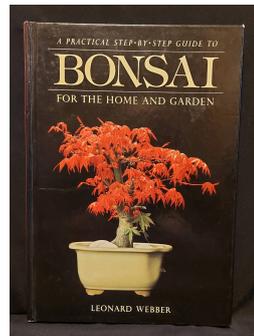
Bonsai

Published: 1982

ISBN: 9784586540297

Image supplied by Alistair Hodgson

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Leonard Webber

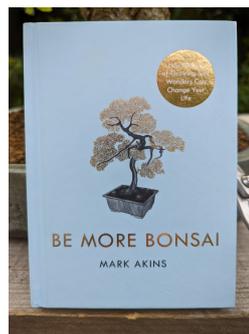
Bonsai For The Home And Garden

Published: 1985

ISBN: 0207175330

Image supplied by Mark Warders

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Mark Akins

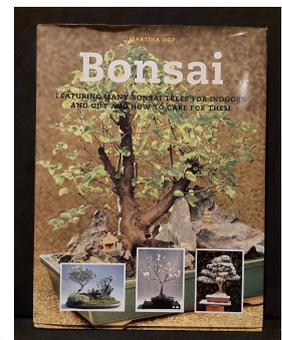
Be More Bonsai

Published: 2022

ISBN: 9781405952064

Image supplied by Mark Akins

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Martina Hop

Bonsai

Published: 1997

ISBN: 1901094723

Image supplied by David Swinhard

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## UKBA Jan23 Quiz

This month's quiz is very easy to finish the year.

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ELM BONSAI

Good Luck and a Happy New Year.

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			N				E

## Answers to Dec22 Quiz

Eddy Maple 7 trees noon

Geraldine Pine 4 trees Mid p.m.

Greg Cedar 9 trees Sunset

Ian Elm 6 trees Sunrise

Valerie Hornbeam 8 trees Early p.m

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