

UK Bonsai Association

www.ukbonsaiassoc.org



Bulletin May24

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Welcome to this month's Bulletin.

In the last 6 six months most places in the UK have experienced record amounts of rain, with temperatures fluctuating abnormally between high and low, a nightmare for many of us. At long last the longer days are with us and the joys of strolling amongst our trees either early morning or late evening with a cup of coffee in one hand are here, enjoy.

We are pleased to report that on one of the association's flagship events, the Expo Bonsai UK show which was held on the 14Apr24. The tree displays reached new highs with record numbers of traders and visitors attending the show, an all-round great success. The launch of the UKBA handbooks at the event was a great success and we can confirm all the handbooks can be viewed on the website. A big thank you to everybody involved whether putting the show together, exhibiting or just visiting for the day. Many thanks for your support. Thanking you
Mark Moreland

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 originally scheduled for Tuesday 07May24 has been brought forward to Monday 06 May24 at 1900.hrs to allow members to attend the

Bonsai Events

May23 & Jun23

04&05May24 Sat & Sun (Confirmed)
Accrington & District Bonsai Society Display
At Barton Grange Garden Centre,
Garstang Road, Brock, Preston. PR3 0BT.
Adm: Free. 0900-1730.hrs & 1000-1630.hrs.
Ctc: Diane Kennedy 07799.567692

Email: dianestardis@icloud.com
www.accringtonbonsai.co.uk

04-05May24 Sat & Sun (Confirmed)
Sutton Bonsai Society Show
Wisley Gardens, Wisley Lane, Surrey. GU23 6QB
Adm: £ tba Times: 1000-1630.hrs.
Contact: Andy Jordan 07958.372101
Email: antique.netsuke@gmail.com
www.suttonbonsai.co.uk

11May24 Sat
World Bonsai Day

11-12May24 Sat & Sun (Confirmed)
Greenwood Spring Bonsai Bash
Greenwood Bonsai Studio,
Ollerton Road, Arnold, Nottingham. NG5 8PR.
Adm: Free. Times: 1000-1700.hrs
Contact: Corin Tomlinson 0115.9205757
Email: office@bonsai.co.uk
www.bonsai.co.uk

12May24 Sat (Confirmed)
Ayrshire Bonsai Club Open Exhibition
Troon Concert Hall,
South Beach, Troon, Ayrshire. KA10 6EF.
Adm: £2.50. Times: 1100-1600.hrs
Contact: Jeff Banning 07799.477895
Email: jeffbanning@btinternet.com

17&18May24 Fri & Sat (Confirmed)
UKBA Promotional Stand
At The ARB Show 24
(Arbicultural Association)
Westonbirt National Arboretum
Tetbury, Gloucestershire. GL8 8QS.
Adm: £12Adults. Times: 0900-1600.hrs
Ctc: Amelia Williams 07740.868256
Email: wjailema@gmail.com

19May24 Sun (Confirmed)
Leicestershire Bonsai Club
Display and Club Competition.
At Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council's
Burbage Common Open Day
Burbage Common & Woods Country Park,
Leicester Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 3DD.
Adm: Free. Times: 1030-1630.hrs.
Contact: Carol Smith Taylor 07870.117882
Email: casmithtaylor@gmail.com

21-25May24 Tue-Sat (Confirmed)
Chelsea Flower Show
Royal Hospital Chelsea, London. SW3 4SR.
Adm: tbc. Times: 0800-Late.

25May24 Sat (Confirmed)
North London Bonsai Group Show
Capel Manor, Bullsmoor Lane,
Enfield, Middlesex. EN1 4RQ.
Adm: £10. 1000-1600.hrs.
Contact: : Bob McGregor 07903.710509
Email: dismcg@hotmail.co.uk

26May24 Sun (Confirmed)
Scottish Bonsai Association National Exhibition
Strathbrock Centre, Broxburn, West Lothian. EH52 5LH
Adm: £3 or 2 for £5.
Kids and Concessions Free. 1100-1600.hrs
Email: president@scottishbonsai.org

27May24 Mon (Confirmed)
Accrington & District Bonsai Society Display
At Great Harwood Show,
The New Showground, Harwood Lane, Great
Harwood, Lancashire. BB6 7UL.
Adm: £10 Adults. Times: 0900-1700.hrs.
Ctc: Diane Kennedy 07799.567692

Email: dianestardis@icloud.com
www.accringtonbonsai.co.uk

01Jun24 Sat (Confirmed)
Milton Keynes Bonsai Society Show
Milton Keynes Central Library,
555 Silbury Blvd, Milton Keynes. MK9 3HL.
Adm: Free. Times: 1000-1530.hrs
Ctc: Simon Roberts
simon.roberts26@btopenworld.com
www.mkbonsaisociety.co.uk

Supporting Clubs:
Bedfordshire Bonsai Society
Mid-Herts Bonsai Society
Middlesex Bonsai Society
Milton Keynes Bonsai Society
Northampton Bonsai Society
Local Ikebana Club
Supporting Traders:
Greenwood Bonsai Nursery

02Jun24 Sun (Confirmed)
Chiltern Bonsai Show &
Satsuki Azalea Bonsai Show
Liston Hall, Chapel Street, Marlow,
Buckinghamshire, SL7 1DD
Adm: £2 -16s Free. 1000-1600.hrs.
Ctc: Michael Pegg & Adrian Garnett
Email: mikew.pegg@btinternet.com
Email: adrian.garnett@virginmedia.com
www.chilternbonsai.org.uk

08Jun24 Sat (Confirmed)
Accrington & District Bonsai Society Display
At Nursery End Garden Centre,
Harrington Street, Clayton Le Moors,
Accrington. BB5 4DF.
Adm: Free. Times: 0930-1700.hrs.
Ctc: Diane Kennedy 07799.567692
Email: dianestardis@icloud.com
www.accringtonbonsai.co.uk

09Jun24 Sun (Confirmed)
Bonsai By The Sea.
The Pavilion, The Esplanade,
Exmouth. EX8 2AZ.
Adm: £5. Times: 1000-1630.hrs.
Ctc: Brian MacKichan 01392.437525
brian.mackichan@mypostoffice.co.uk
www.exeterbonsaisocetv.com

Supporting Clubs:
Cardiff Bonsai Society
Celtic Knot Bonsai Society
Cornwall Bonsai Society
Dragon Bonsai Society
Exeter Bonsai Society
Middlesex Bonsai Society
North Devon Bonsai Society
Plymouth Bonsai Society
South Devon Bonsai Society
British Suiseki Club
Supporting Traders:
Brian Mackichan Bonsai
Chris Thomas Bonsai
Devon Bonsai
Kevin Jenkins Bonsai
Kevin Strong Bonsai
Observatory Bonsai
Woodandclay Ceramics

09Jun24 Sun (Confirmed)
Midland Bonsai Society Show
Birmingham Botanical Gardens,
Westbourne Road, Edgbaston,
Birmingham. B15 3TR.
Adm: tba. Times: 1030-1600.hrs.
Contact: Richard Gilkes 07803.593024
Email: ragilkes@blueyonder.co.uk

www.midlandbonsai.org

Supporting Club:

Redditch Bonsai Society

Supporting Traders:

David Cheshire Bonsai

Funky Fish Ceramics

15Jun24 Sat (Confirmed)

Berkshire Bonsai Society Display

At Winnersh Summer Fete,

Bearwood Recreational Park, Mole Road,
Sindlesham, Wokingham, Berkshire. RG41 5DJ.

Adm: Free. Times: 1300-1630.hrs

Ctc: Keith Winter 07802.214150

Email: berkshirebonsaiclub@gmail.com

www.berkshirebonsai.co.uk

15Jun24 Sat (Confirmed)

Middlesex Bonsai Society Summer Show

South Harrow Methodist Church,

Walton Avenue, South Harrow,

Middlesex. HA2 8QU.

Adm: Free. Times: 1000-1300.hrs.

Ctc: Mark Moreland 07850.771201

Email: markmoreland@live.co.uk

www.middlesexbonsaisociety.weebly.com

15&16Jun24 Sat & Sun (Confirmed)

Mid-Herts Bonsai Society Show

Kingsbury Barn, Branch Road,

St Albans, Hertfordshire. AL3 4SE.

Adm: Free. Times: 1100-1700.hrs

Contact: Geoff Conybeare 07396.732817

Email: info@midhertsbonsaiclub.co.uk

www.midhertsbonsaiclub.co.uk

16Jun24 Sun (Confirmed)

North East Lincolnshire & Humberside

Bonsai Show

Darby & Joan Hall,

58 Finkle Street, Cottingham. HU16 4AZ.

Adm: £1.50 -16s Free. Times: 1000-1500.hrs

Ctc: Ian Butland 07963.470696

Email: nelbs.chairman@virginmedia.com

www.nelincbonsai.org.uk

23Jun24 Sun (Provisional)

Blackmore Vale Bonsai Group Show

Charlton Remembrance Hall,

Charlton, Shaftsbury, Dorset. SP7 0PL.

Adm: £3.00. Times: 1100-1500.hrs

Contact: Geoff 07837.781744 & 01747.853475

Email: m5eay.geoff@btinternet.com

www.blackmorevalebonsaigroup.com

23Jun24 Sun (Confirmed)

Bedfordshire Bonsai Society Show

Stockwood Park Discovery Centre,

London Road, Luton, Bedfordshire. LU1 4LX.

Ctc: Richard Gaiger 07745.507318

Email: r.gaiger@ntlworld.com

www.bedfordshirebonsaisociety.weebly.com

30Jun24 Sun (Moved to 02Jun24)

Satsuki Azalea Bonsai Show

Organised by Chiltern Bonsai Society

Liston Hall, Chapel Street, Marlow,

Buckinghamshire, SL7 1DD

Adm: tbc. Times: 1000-1600.hrs.

Contact: Amnon Paldi 07801.183316

Email: amnonp@icloud.com

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

Bonsai Event Reports UK

To read the full reports with photos on the events listed below please visit the website.

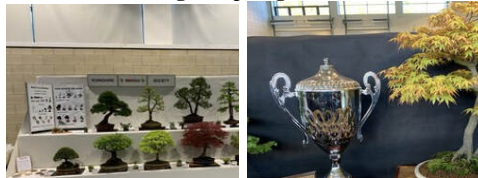
14Apr24 Sun
5th Expo Bonsai UK



20&21Apr24 Sat & Sun
Accrington & District Bonsai Society Display
At Daisy Nook Garden Centre,



25-28Apr24 Thu-Sun
Yorkshire Bonsai Society Display & Show
At Harrogate Spring Flower Show,



27&28Apr24 Sat & Sun
Celtic Bonsai Morten Albek Weekend



Trips Abroad

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

Club Talks

01May24 Wed (1930-2200.hrs)

Talk by Steve McKee

Subject: Preparing Trees For Shows

Mid-Herts Bonsai Club

Mead Hall, East Lane, Wheathampstead,

Hertfordshire. AL4 8BP.

Ctc: Geoff Conybeare 07396.732817

Email: info@midhertsbonsaiclub.co.uk

02May24 Thu (1930-2130.hrs)

Talk by John Armitage

Subject: Maples

Ashfield Bonsai Club

Evergreen Club, Cornhill, Allestree,

Derbyshire. DE22 2FT

Ctc: Mike Rose 07968.951515

Email: rosemike1960@gmail.com

02May24 Thu (1930.hrs)

Talk by David Cheshire

Subject: tbc.

Midlands Bonsai Society

Moseley Cricket Club, 105 Streetbrook

Road, Shirley, Solihull, Midlands. B90 3PE.

Ctc: Richard Gilkes 07803.593024

Email: ragilkes@blueyonder.co.uk

08May24 Wed (1930-2200.hrs)

Talk by Harry Harrington

Subject: Walkabout Workshop

Bedfordshire Bonsai Society

Toddington Village Hall, Leighton Road,

Toddington, Bedfordshire. LU5 6AN.

Ctc: Richard Gaiger 07745.507318

Email: r.gaiger@ntlworld.com

08May24 Wed (1945-2200.hrs)

Talk by Amelia Williams

Subject: Air Layering Workshop

Berkshire Bonsai Society

Barkham Village Hall, Barkham,

Berkshire. RG40 4PL

Ctc: Jamie Ewing 07570.368175

Email: jamie1322@hotmail.co.uk

09May24 Thu (1830-2130.hrs)

Talk by Caroline (Caz) Scott

Subject: Pines & Junipers

Twickenham Bonsai Club

Whitton Community Centre, Percy Road,

Whitton, Twickenham, Middlesex. TW2 6JA.

Ctc: Tony Ulatowski 07956.362743

twickenhambonsaiclub@gmail.com

11May24 Sat (1400-1600.hrs)

Talk by Alex Rudd

Subject: Bonsai Pot Selection

North London Bonsai Group

Capel Manor College, Bullsmoor Lane,

Enfield, Middlesex. EN1 4RQ.

Ctc: Bob McGregor 07903.710509

Email: dismcg@hotmail.co.uk

13May24 Mon (1900-2200.hrs)

Talk by Mark Kerry

Subject: Junipers

Chiltern Bonsai Society.

Liston Hall, Chapel Street, Marlow,

Buckinghamshire, SL7 1DD

Ctc: Michael Pegg & Adrian Garnett

Email: mikew.pegg@btinternet.com

Email: adrian.garnett@virginmedia.com

Non-members £5 admission

16May24 Thu (1930-2200.hrs)

Talk by Mark Moreland

Subject: Propagating & Miniature Bonsai.

Crawley Bonsai Group

CH Society Hall, Ifield Avenue, West

Green, Crawley, West Sussex. RH11 7AJ.

Contact: Tony McKenzie 07837.577680

tony.mckenzie1955@btinternet.com

16May24 Thu (1930.hrs)

Talk by David Cheshire

Subject: tbc.
Redditch Bonsai Society
Webheath Village Hall, Heathfield Road,
Redditch, Midlands. B97 5SQ,
3rd Thu Monthly. 1930.hrs
Ctc: Richard Gilkes 07803.593024
Email: ragilkes@blueyonder.co.uk

18May24 Sat (1000-1300.hrs)
Talk by Tony McKenzie
Subject: Junipers / Pines & Workshop
Middlesex Bonsai Society
South Harrow Methodist Church,
Walton Avenue, South Harrow,
Middlesex. HA2 8QU.
Ctc: Mark Moreland 07850.771201
Email: markmoreland@live.co.uk

29May24 Wed (1945-2200.hrs)
Talk by Harry Harrington
Subject: Deciduous Maintenance.
Surrey Heath Bonsai Society
Chobham Village Hall,
Station Road, Chobham, Surrey. GU24 8AQ
Ctc: Chris Rhodes 01276.20893
Email: rhodes163@googlemail.com

04Jun24 Tue (1830-2115.hrs)
Talk by Peter Fielding
Subject: defoliation & Leaf Cutting..
Leicestershire Bonsai Club
Whitwick Park Hall, North Street, Whitwick,
Coalville, Leicestershire. LE67 5HA.
Ctc: Paul 'Olly' Olson 07563.283199
Email: paul.olson174@icloud.com

14Jun24 Fri (1930-2200.hrs)
Talk by Amelia Williams
Subject: tbc.
Blackmore Vale Bonsai Group
Charlton Remembrance Hall, Charlton,
Wiltshire. SP7 0PL.
Ctc: Geoff Hobson 01747.853475 &
07837.781744
Email: m5eay.geoff@btinternet.com

18Jun24 Tue (1930-2200.hrs)
Talk by: John Hanby
Subject: tba
National Bonsai Society
Banks Leisure Centre,
Greaves Hall Avenue, Banks,
Southport, Merseyside. PR9 8BL.
Ctc: Stephen Holland 0151.9338757
Email: sholland19547@gmail.com

24Jun24 Mon (1930-2200.hrs)
Talk by Dan Barton
Subject: Aesthetics Of Bonsai Design
Bristol Bonsai Society
Failand Village Hall, Oxhouse Lane,
Failand, Somerset. BS8 3TS.
Ctc: Nigel Turner 07918.602306
Email: bbs-site@outlook.com

26Jun24 Wed (1930-2200.hrs)
Talk by Tony Remington
Subject: Bonsai Pot Demo
Derby & District Bonsai Association
Grange Hall Community Centre, Park Lane,
Littleover, Derbyshire. DE23 6FX.
Ctc: Tony Lloyd 01332.679584
Email: tlloyd98@gmail.com

Notice Board

07May24 Tue

Garden Museum
Lambeth Palace Road, London. SE1 7LB
Lecture by Luis Vallejo, a renowned Spanish
landscape designer and curator/director of the
Museo del Bonsai in Alcobendas and formerly
created/curator of the bonsai collection of the
Real Jardin Botanico in Madrid. In 2008 he
received the Order of the Rising Sun conferred
by the Emperor of Japan.
Luis Vallejo's new book 'The Wind Among The
Leaves' is a portrait of one of the most
outstanding collections of bonsai in Europe, and of
the collector himself through his collection.
For more information Tel: 020.74018865
www.gardenmuseum.org.uk

17&18May24 Fri & Sat
New to the events diary this month
UKBA Promotional Stand
At The ARB Show 24
(The Arboricultural Association)
Westonbirt National Arboretum
Tetbury, Gloucestershire. GL8 8QS.
Adm: £12Adults. Times: 0900-1600.hrs
Anybody wishing to help the team manning the
stand at this event please immediately contact
Amelia Williams 07740.868256
Email: wjailema@gmail.com

26May24 Sun
New to the events diary this month
Scottish Bonsai Association National Exhibition
Strathbrock Centre, Broxburn, West Lothian.
EH52 5LH.
Adm: £3 or 2 for £5. Kids and Concessions
Free. Times: 1100-1600.hrs
Email: president@scottishbonsai.org

15Jun24 Sat
This event has been moved forward from the
22Jun24 to the new date of 15Jun24.
Middlesex Bonsai Society Summer Show
South Harrow Methodist Church,
Walton Avenue, South Harrow,
Middlesex. HA2 8QU.
Adm: Free. Times:1000-1300.hrs.
Ctc: Mark Moreland 07850.771201
Email: markmoreland@live.co.uk
www.middlesexbonsaisociety.weebly.com

30Jun24 Sun
Satsuki Azalea Bonsai Show
Following comments from Satsuki Azalea
aficionados we have decided to bring the show
forward.
The Azalea Show will be incorporated this year
into the Chiltern Bonsai Society Show taking
place on Sunday 02Jun24.
Space for around 30 Satsuki Azaleas have been
allocated.
Anyone wishing to show their Satsuki Azalea
should contact amnonp@icloud.com stating
the size of the Satsuki Azalea and the size of the
stand. Entrance £3.
Liston Hall, Chapel Street, Marlow,
Buckinghamshire, SL7 1DD
Adm: tbc. Times: 1000-1600.hrs.
Contact: Amnon Paldi 07801.183316
Email: amnonp@icloud.com

20-21Jul24 Sat & Sun
New to the events diary this month
Chichester Bonsai Exhibition
Manor Nursery, Pagham Road,
Runcton, Chichester. PO20 1LJ.
Adm: Free. 0900-1700 & 1000-1600.hrs.
Ctc: Liz Panton 01798.865551/07368.327244

Email: lizpanton5@gmail.com
www.chichesterbonsai.uk
We can confirm planning for this show is
well under way, if you are a club wanting
to display at this event please contact us
as soon as possible, thank you.
Supporting Trader: Collette's Bonsai

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

13Oct24 Sun
13th Heathrow Bonsai Show
Sponsored by UKBA
Bracknell Leisure Centre, Bagshot Road,
Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 9SE.
We have many traders now booked for
this event, so now this month of May we
will be inviting clubs and societies to
display. If you have not displayed at this
event before, please contact us. Contact:
Mark Moreland 07850.771201
Email: ukbonsaiassociation@gmail.com
www.heathrowbonsai.weebly.com

16Mar25 Sun
New to the events diary this month
Bonsai -Fest
Lady Eastwood Center, Newark
Showground, Lincoln Road, Newark,
Nottinghamshire. NG24 2NY.
Adm: tba. Times: 0900-1600.hrs
Ctc: Adam Booty 07805.123713
Email: adam.booty@hotmail.co.uk
www.info@bonsai-fest.com

22-23Mar25 Sat & Sun
New to the events diary this month
Sutton Bonsai Society Show
Wisley Gardens, Wisley Lane, Surrey. GU23 6QB
Adm: £ tba Times: 1000-1630.hrs.
Contact: Andy Jordan 07958.372101
Email: antique.netsuke@gmail.com
www.suttonbonsai.co.uk

Beechfield Bonsai Workshops
Location: Shropshire Area.
15Jun24 Sat
Caroline Scott Workshop
Subject: General
16Jun24 Sun
Caroline Scott Workshop
Subject: General
Cost: £65. Times: 1000-1600.hrs
Ctc: Mark Akins 07950.767684
Email: sales@beechfieldbonsai.co.uk

Caz Bonsai Workshops
Location: Tyne & Wear /
Northumberland Area
01&02Jun24 Sat & Sun
Subject: General Workshops
30Nov&01Dec24 Sat & Sun
Cost: £50 (Lunch included)
Times: 1000-1600.hrs
Ctc: Caz Scott 07854.502708
Email: bonsaicaz1@gmail.com

David Cheshire Workshops
Location: Warwickshire Area
18May24 Sat
Subject: General Workshop
26May24 Sun

Subject: Beginners Workshop
Cost: tba. Times:1030-1530.hrs
Ctc: David Cheshire Tel: 07584.991975
info@davidcheshirenurseries.co.uk
www.davidcheshirenurseries

Mendip Bonsai Studio Workshops
Location: Somerset Area.
25May24

Subject: Beginners Workshop
Cost: £50. Times: 1100-1700.hrs
Ctc: JohnTrott. Tel: 07711.205806.
Email: john@mendipbonsai.co.uk
www.mendipbonsai.co.uk

Monthly Tasks

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

Spring is in full flow, albeit some frosts in some areas with still fairly cold nights but hopefully all of your bonsai trees have come through the winter and are coping with the cold nights here in the UK. Here is a quick generic guide to bonsai in May but for individual species check out some of the other species-specific posts.

Watering:

In the UK it has been very wet this winter, but always check your trees daily and water as required and start to increase your watering with the buds now pushing and leaves opening. Water in the mornings ideally to avoid the colder temperatures at night. Spray any repotted trees to ensure they do not dry out

Re-potting:

You should now have completed your spring repotting for most species so keep an eye on the trees that you have repotted.

For any trees that you are not repotting still remove the top surface and re-top dress to remove any crusting on the surface to improve airflow and drainage down through the soil. Plus clean the pots of the trees if they have got green algae forming on them.

Feeding:

For broadleaved trees, start feeding any trees that are now out in leaf that you did not repot whilst do not feed those repotted in April / May yet, wait until the end of May. Start increasing the feeding of evergreen trees as they start to show more signs of stronger growth.

Tropical trees and Evergreens can continue to be fed with a low nitrogen feed to maintain health and vigour at the onset of spring. Feed flowering trees that have not been repotted yet like Forsythia, Chamomiles, Cherry, Akebia etc. Ideal feeding at this time is liquid feed as the watering regime has picked up and you can feed with each watering, and the general rule is little and often.

Pruning:

Species to avoid pruning in Spring due to potential for sap bleeding would be Acer, Betula, Carpinus, Carya, Juglans, Magnolia, Morus, Populus and Tilia. Remove unwanted branches and look for dead branches now that you can see the new buds swelling and clean out any dead branches before the leaves fully flush. Prune back any branches that are too long to a suitable live bud pointing in the right direction. Seal any large wounds with cut paste.

Younger trees that are being developed can have unwanted branches removed and for older trees check that callus wood is forming on old wounds and if necessary re-cut or carve to promote callus wood formation.

De-candling:

This is the time to de-candle or cut in half the candles on 2 needle pines.

Trimming:

Now that the leaves are present continue to maintain the shape through regular trimming and remove the terminal shoot in some species to aid with creating a more compact form.

Continue to prune tropical trees to maintain their shape and trim the new shoots.

Where too much growth is expected and buds are well advanced, removal of unwanted future twigs may be anticipated by pinching out buds now. Where density is required of foliage, pinch or remove the terminal bud to promote side buds to develop. This is also a good opportunity to check buds to see if they are viable.

Leaf cutting or full defoliation is applicable for some species like maples but ensure that they are vigorous and healthy before you carry out a full defoliation and it may be more suitable to do a section of % at any time.

Root pruning:

This is not applicable at present unless any trees are being repotted but for the majority of species they should already have been done.

Insects and pests:

Check for the newly emerging bugs and pests like green and black fly, red spider mite, scale insect, mealy bug as well as vine weevil beetles. With the onset of warmer weather insect pests can start to emerge and are more likely to appear on the new shoots and leaves.

Watch out for the onset of mildew and prune out any damaged leaves or treat any infestations if found.

Moss and weed control:

Continue to keep this in check and treat or remove unwanted moss and remove any newly forming weeds.

Wiring:

Wiring can be started on some of the larger branches.

Protection:

Continue to protect from late frosts as it is still not very warm outside and ensure to harden off leaves before moving your trees out from a cold greenhouse.

Assessment:

Continue to update your bonsai records and photograph your trees to record their progress.

Tools:

This is something everyone should do each time they use their tools but often it is not easy to do depending on how often you are using your tools. However, it is good practice to clean and sharpen your tools after use and this is a good time to go through your tool kits and clean them up before the start of the pruning season.

Display areas:

If you have trees out in display areas check that they are not drying out or getting too much sun and ensure they have shade if required as the temperatures during the day currently are fairly hot whilst the nights are cold. Also check for wind protection and stability of trees

Propagation:

This is the time to take conifer cuttings.

Interview

UKBA Interview With Peter Thorne



How did you get started?

I have always had an interest in nature, and I especially love the beauty of big majestic trees in the countryside. As a keen gardener I regularly attend local flower shows and I recall that my first interest in the hobby was down to a specific event at Ayr flower show in August 2002.

At the time Ayr flower show was a major event in the Scottish calendar and was supported by several specialist bonsai traders. There was also a very large display by the Ayrshire Bonsai Group. During my visit to the show I was fascinated by, and kept returning to the bonsai displays.

Eventually, my wife became exasperated with the amount of time I was spending looking at the trees for sale and suggested that I should buy one of them. That was the start of the slippery slope and I very quickly became hooked.

Whilst attending the show I had also spent quite a bit of time speaking with the members of the Ayrshire Bonsai Group, whom I found to be very friendly, knowledgeable and enthusiastic. At the time I was an established breeder of exhibition budgerigars, and so I knew that the best way to learn about the practical side of any hobby was to both meet with and learn from other local enthusiasts. I therefore joined the local Bonsai club and have been a member ever since.

How did you learn about bonsai ?

When I began in the hobby the Internet was relatively new and not the extensive source of information that it is today. There was no YouTube, even videos were a novelty. I therefore obtained copies of every Bonsai book or magazine that I could find and attended lectures, demonstrations, and workshops, with the great names of the day. People such as Marco Invernizzi, Mark Noelanders, Ryan Neil, John Hanby and Steve Tolley to name but a few.

However, whilst these one-off events were helpful, the most benefit came from the "shoulder to shoulder" learning that comes from working with both the same tutor and the same trees over a prolonged period. I was very fortunate that when I joined the Ayrshire Bonsai Group I was mixing with some of the most knowledgeable and experienced people in the hobby. Their trees were amongst the best in Scotland and their friendly supportive enthusiasm quickly rubbed off on me. People such as Joe Baillie, who was an expert in Maples; Ian

McDougall who is renowned for his Scots pines, and Jim Rafferty who was a great all round horticulturist.

I should also give credit to Peter Snart at Willowbog Bonsai nursery for hosting his monthly "Bonsai Chat". This was a regular opportunity to meet with other bonsai enthusiasts from all over the North of England and Southern Scotland. It was a 3 hour drive from my home to Willowbog, but it was definitely worth it. The format was very informal, with people either bringing their trees to work on or to get advice and opinion from others more knowledgeable than themselves. Other people were doing the same and the informal format and supportive environment coupled with the opportunity to buy the materials and accessories we need for the hobby was a big attraction. I appreciated the fact that we could buy everything from raw starter material to finished specimens, and of course the opportunity to view the Willowbog collection was always welcome.



This Japanese larch was displayed at the SBA show in 2023

Do you belong to a Bonsai Club?

From the outset I have been a member of both the Scottish Bonsai Association and the Ayrshire Bonsai Group. I have always been a strong advocate of belonging to a club, and I do what I can to support their activities. I have acted both as the Treasurer of the SBA and as Convener of the Ayrshire Group. Although a recent change in employment has taken me away from these administrative roles, I try to support both organisations where I can, and who knows – as retirement gets closer, perhaps I will get more involved in the future.

Do you consider Bonsai an art form?

Certainly - I usually describe the hobby as a blend of art and horticulture. Replicating a big mature tree in miniature is mostly about horticultural skills, but creating abstract designs with lots of carving and deadwood is definitely an art.

Do you have a favourite species or size?

I have quite an eclectic mix of tree species. Mostly Scots Pines, Junipers and Cedars. There are a few Yews, Larch, Hawthorns and Maples to mention just a few. There has been no desire to specialise, but I have found that these are the varieties that survive in my environment. I do not have a greenhouse or polytunnel, and being away at work throughout the week means that my trees need to be reasonably robust and self-sufficient. Most of my trees would be considered medium to large scale, and I don't have any Shohin or Mame sized trees. I have struggled to keep Japanese Pines alive and although these may be regarded as iconic standard bonsai varieties – I now advise newcomers in my part of the world to avoid them and to encourage the use of native species or those available in the local garden centre.

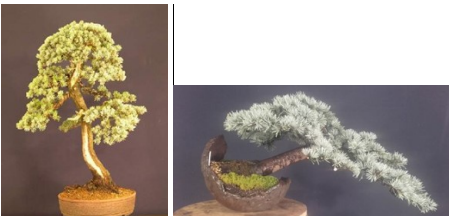


A couple of substantial Yew trees, both with extensive carving, the one on the top is still in development, the one on the bottom being displayed at Bonsai Live.

Do you have a favourite bonsai?

In terms of my own collection, my favourite tree varies from time to time dependent upon what stage they are at and how presentable they are. The image of every tree constantly evolves, and occasionally the foliage becomes too dense and needs to be thinned out. Perhaps they lose a branch or two and need to be restyled. Whatever the reason for undertaking a significant adjustment to the tree, they usually need a few years to bring them back to their best. Effectively a period of redevelopment.

I regularly rearrange the position of my trees on the benches in my garden and I love showing them off to visitors, so perhaps I do put the favoured trees in the most prominent position. Whenever I attend a show, I like to identify the tree that I would like to take home and, perhaps surprisingly, it isn't always the tree that has been given the top award. Of course, deciding what is best is very subjective. Just like judging any form of artwork, you can recognise the technical skill and attention to detail, but beyond that you are judging style and aesthetics. At the end of the day these are all a matter of opinion, but I do love debating the merits of particular trees with friends and enthusiasts.



A couple of Blue Cedars developed from garden centre material.

Do you have a favourite potter?

No - The most important consideration for me is to find a pot that compliments the tree. It doesn't matter whether that is a mass produced pot from China or a hand made ceramic from one of the big names.

Having said that, although it would be wrong to single out a favourite potter, many of my pots have been made by Walsall Ceramics, China Mist, and Ian Baillie. More recently I have been attracted to the pots made by Barry Sommerville.

Although I think most people can instinctively recognise when a tree is in an unsuitable pot. It can be very difficult to describe the characteristics of what makes a good pot, and why this one, or that one, is right for a particular tree.

What appeals to one person, and their perception of beauty or harmony, will vary from person to person and so if you are happy with the tree and pot combination that's good

enough for me. I do like the traditional approach of combining a display table, with an appropriate pot and the tree, and I can relate to the idea of creating a balanced harmonious composition made up of these three elements. However, I have never understood the need for scrolls or accent plants, and I'm not a fan of the European trend to introduce other elements into the display.

What mistakes have you made?

I think I must have made all of the fundamental mistakes that it is possible to make in this hobby. Certainly, to many to recount in a single article. However, my most common mistake was trying to do too much to a tree at the one time. We do need to treat our trees with respect – give them a chance to recover and they will reward you in so many ways. Please be patient. In fact if you don't have patience I suggest you find another hobby !



A Siberian Elm, with a fantastic nebari, purchased as raw material in 2010

Have you experienced bonsai abroad?

Yes – whatever activities I'm involved with I think it's important to appreciate what other people are doing. I refer to this as "looking over the fence". In business we may call it bench marking. Whatever you call it, I think it's important to look beyond your close circle of friends and competitors to see what the wider world is up to, and to see what we can learn from them.

In my early years in the hobby I attended the Ginko shows organised by Danny Use in Belgium. These trips were undertaken by a small group of friends from the Ayrshire Group, who travelled in a pick-up truck and toured many of the specialist Bonsai nurseries in Belgium & Germany. One of our Group – Pete Hadden, had served in the RAF in Germany and so knew his way around many of the nurseries, tucked away in unknown locations. We also went to the Noelanders show in Genk, and again combined this with visits to specialist nurseries along the way. Somehow, the pick-up always seemed to be full of new trees on the return journey! These were great adventures, producing many stories not to be repeated here, but suffice to say that the shows and the quality of trees available were simply eye opening.

For some people based in Scotland, the term "Bonsai Abroad" could include

bonsai events in England and Wales. For me, there have been many trips south of the border including amongst many others, visits to the shows at Newstead and Bury, and the traders shows in Sheffield and Doncaster. All have helped my understanding of what other bonsai enthusiasts are producing and I would encourage anyone to enhance their knowledge by "looking over the fence".

Can you recommend one or two bonsai books?

I'm not sure that recommending books is the best advice that can be given nowadays. There is so much information on YouTube and it's much easier to consume. However, a word of caution. Any knowledge gathered from books, or the internet, has to be taken with a degree of caution. The majority of authors will share knowledge based upon their own experience of working with trees in their local environment. Each of us has a unique micro climate in our garden and thus the advice offered from people at the opposite end of the country, will not always translate into sound advice for the trees in your microclimate.



This is a Berberis, collected from a demolition site in 2011

What advice would you offer to newcomers?

Where do I start? There is so much to learn. I think the most important thing is to find other people in your local area who share your interest. No matter what level you are at, we can all benefit from sharing knowledge and experience. Attend as many exhibitions as you can and learn from the people displaying the style of trees that you like. Purchase tree species that will thrive in your local area. Collect urban Yamadori and learn how to maintain them in a small pot.

Be realistic about what you can achieve, and the time and commitment that is involved. Find a mentor in your area, meet them on a regular basis, and ask them to work with you on the same trees throughout the year.

Don't spend a fortune on your trees and try to get a balance between the number of trees that you have "in development" and those that you are pleased to show to friends and family. If you have too many "Sticks in Pots" you will quickly become disillusioned.

Expect some of your trees to die. We all lose trees from time to time no matter how long we have been in the hobby. Be pragmatic and treat it as a part of the learning experience.

Enjoy the challenges and opportunities that Bonsai will bring. Strive to keep your trees healthy, develop them to the best of your ability, but most importantly, enjoy the fellowship of other enthusiasts.

What is your favourite bonsai show?

In the last few years my job in London has allowed me easy access to both the Heathrow Bonsai show and the Bonsai Expo held in Crawley. The two events are quite different but equally impressive. The Heathrow show is essentially a club event at which over 30

separate clubs from across the South of England each create a display comprising their member's trees. Although the organisers do not select individual trees, the quality is very high and the number of traders supporting the event is mind blowing. They will soon be looking for a bigger venue.

The Bonsai Expo held in Crawley was conceived to promote the standard of bonsai display and to match the quality of the major shows in Europe. Individual trees are offered for selection by their owners and the organisers decide which trees are to be displayed. This ensures that the quality of the trees and their presentation is exceptional. The scale and quality of the show also attracts many traders, and the event is now one of the best in the UK. Wherever you live in the UK, this event should be a must for all bonsai enthusiasts, and I would encourage everyone to ink it into their diaries. Finally, it would be remiss of me not to mention the annual show held by the Scottish Bonsai Association. Principally organised by the stalwarts of the Ayrshire Bonsai Group, the show continues to promote better quality trees; improvements in the standard of display; to increase the number of participants, and as a result, to attract participants from across the North of England. With regular visitors from Northern Ireland, the show continues to go from strength to strength and is a permanent fixture in my diary.

Do you wish to share your opinion on any other aspect of the hobby?

I do become disappointed at how many people attend bonsai exhibitions but do not support them by entering a tree or two. Organising a major show is a significant undertaking, requiring a dedicated team who put in a tremendous amount of work and sometimes taking a significant financial risk. They should be applauded for their commitment and the contribution they make to the hobby. I believe that the more established bonsai practitioners have a duty to support them by entering trees. Without trees on the benches there will be no shows and the hobby will be much poorer without them.

I also believe we need to support those individuals who establish small businesses supplying trees, pots, wire etc to the hobby. They are an integral part of the hobby and should be supported as best we can. Without them it would be very difficult to acquire the specialist items that we need.

Do you have any other interests or hobbies?

I have always had a variety of hobbies and interests throughout my life. For many years I was a champion breeder of Exhibition Budgerigars, both showing at, and judging exhibitions throughout the UK and Ireland. Living in Scotland it's hard to avoid the game of golf, and I enjoyed playing with friends for many years. However, I eventually realised that the game and I had come to a mutual understanding that I would never be capable of doing anything other than taking my clubs for a walk in a nice environment. As a consequence my golf clubs have enjoyed their retirement, residing under the stairs and awaiting a call to action.

In recent years my interest in creating bonsai has led me into wood carving. This came about following a workshop with Steve Tolley, when I was searching the internet to find some suitable

tools for carving the deadwood on my bonsai trees. To my surprise, I found a whole new world out there, and have now developed a keen interest in carving a wide variety of subjects. As with my other hobbies my skill level is very mediocre, but I do enjoy it.

What is it you enjoy most about bonsai?

As I reflect on the nature of the various hobbies and interests that I have enjoyed over the years, I realise that there is a common theme. They can all be undertaken in isolation, working away at my own pace, at whatever skill level I want, and with whatever objectives I set for myself. They have all allowed me to employ my limited skills as a photographer, and from time to time to develop a web site in connection with the hobby. Perhaps most importantly, my hobbies have provided a conduit for me to meet with other people who share my interest.

My nature is such that I can't get involved in something in a half-hearted fashion. I always need to get stuck in, give it 100%, and do the best that I can. I'm not a gregarious person, but I do welcome the opportunity to share my interest with other enthusiasts. I also like talking to the public and trying to encourage new members into the hobby. Finally, I love the fact that the hobby is a very broad church, able to accommodate people from all walks of life, with different levels of interest and experience.

UKBA Quiz May24

How much?

Alison and Matt had just bought their first house together. It had a nice big garden so they decided expand their bonsai collection with a few specimen trees. They visited a bonsai nursery which had some offers on multi-buys.

The prices were as follows:-

- 2 oaks and 2 junipers £2600
- 2 oaks and 2 hemlock £1600
- 2 oaks, 1 hemlock and 1juniper £2100
- 3 oak and 1 hemlock £1000
- 2 hemlock, 1 oak and 1 juniper £2700
- 2 hemlock 1 oak and 1 maple £1800
- 2 junipers 1 oak and 1 maple £2800

In the end they decided on 2 maples and 2 hemlock. How much was each tree and what did they spend?

Answers to Apr24 Quiz

T	S	N	A	I	B	E	O	W
E	B	W	O	S	N	A	T	I
I	A	O	W	T	E	N	B	S
N	E	A	B	W	I	O	S	T
W	T	S	E	N	O	B	I	A
O	I	B	S	A	T	W	E	N
B	N	T	I	E	W	S	A	O
S	W	E	T	O	A	I	N	B
A	O	I	N	B	S	T	W	E

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