

# UK Bonsai Association

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



## Bulletin Nov24

In this Nov24 Bulletin  
Opening Introduction  
Bonsai Events for Nov24 & Dec24  
Bonsai Event Reports for Oct24  
Club Talks for Nov24 & Dec24  
Notice Board  
Monthly Task List for Nov24  
Interview with Alex Rudd  
No Collectables This Month  
Quiz

\*\*\*\*\*

Welcome to this month's Bulletin.

Hope you are well. The clocks have gone back and the UK bonsai world is now winding down for the winter, a period of protecting our precious trees with very few events to attend, a time of the year when we organise next year's club programmes and hold our annual AGM's. I would ask kindly for club contacts to please confirm by email their show dates if they are not already on the event's diary and also any information about visiting speakers attending your club.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who supported the Heathrow Bonsai Show. Sometimes when talking to people at events I realise that people mix things up, they think the UKBA sponsors the Heathrow and the Expo Shows, the reality is perhaps the other way around, the monies raised through both of these shows are ploughed into the UKBA and all that it does. Then there's another mis-conception, sometimes people think that all we do is the website and bulletin, far from it. You can count 19 different events last year around the country where the UKBA supported other people's events, everything from simple signage through to show display staging and everything that goes with it. So, again, a big thank you to everyone who supports us, be you just a visitor on the day or a volunteer member who helps run the events.

We would like to remind all members that this quiet time of the year is a good time to update your photographic records of trees. It's sometimes very rewarding to sit back and look at the journey that a particular tree has been on, all captured photographically in detail. Another very important reason to make those photos should be underlined here. If ever you are unlucky enough to have any trees stolen, the images of these trees can be immediately circulated amongst the bonsai community. Very different to years gone by, today's mass

communications allow heightened awareness of any such event, something which we hope makes such events less likely. But sadly they do happen, not as often as we sometimes think, but if and when it does happen, distributed photographic images might help to reunite you with your prized tree. The UKBA website has a lost and found page with past pictures of reported stolen trees, on behalf of their owners please keep an eye out as you never know when such trees might cross your path.

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 04Nov24 at 1900.hrs.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Bonsai Events

Nov24 & Dec24

02&03Nov24 Sat & Sun (Confirmed)  
Greenwood Bonsai Autumn Exhibition  
Greenwood Bonsai Studio,  
Ollerton Road, Arnold, Nottingham. NG5 8PR.  
Adm: Free. Times: 10:00-17:00.hrs  
Contact: Corin Tomlinson 0115.9205757  
Email: [office@bonsai.co.uk](mailto:office@bonsai.co.uk)  
[www.bonsai.co.uk](http://www.bonsai.co.uk)

17Nov24 Sun (Confirmed)  
Southend Bonsai Society Winter Show  
Ashingdon Memorial Hall,  
Ashingdon Road, Rochford, Essex. SS4 3HF.  
Adm: £3. Times: 10:00-16:00.hrs  
Ctc: Paul Schofield 07942.679688  
Email: [southendbonsaisociety@gmail.com](mailto:southendbonsaisociety@gmail.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

\*\*\*\*\*

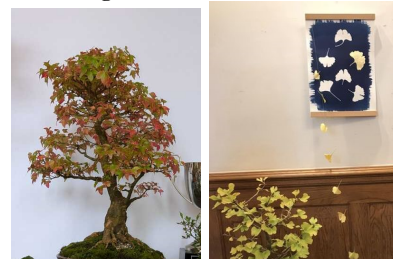
## Bonsai Event Reports UK

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

05&06Oct24 Sat & Sun  
The Bonsai Show Live 2024

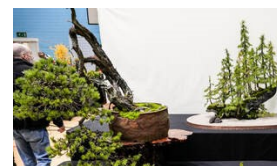


\*\*\*  
12&13Oct24 Sat & Sun  
Dragon Bonsai Autumn Show



\*\*\*

13Oct24 Sun  
13th Heathrow Bonsai Show



\*\*\*

27Oct24 Sun  
Blackmore Vale Bonsai Group Auction



\*\*\*\*\*

## Trips Abroad

19&20Oct24  
Bonsai4me - France



\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## Club Talks

06Nov24 Wed (1930-2200.hrs)  
Talk by Linda McCardell  
Subject: Pests & Diseases  
Mid-Herts Bonsai Club  
Mead Hall, East Lane, Wheathampstead,  
Hertfordshire. AL4 8BP.  
Ctc: Geoff Conybeare 07396.732817  
Email: [info@midhertsbonsaiclub.co.uk](mailto:info@midhertsbonsaiclub.co.uk)

07Nov24 Thu (1930.hrs)  
Talk by Ian Homer  
Subject: Winter Protection.  
Midlands Bonsai Society  
Moseley Cricket Club,  
105 Streetbrook Road,  
Shirley, Solihull, Midlands. B90 3PE.

Ctc: Richard Gilkes 07803.593024  
Email: ragilkes@blueyonder.co.uk

08Nov24 Fri (1930-2200.hrs)

Talk by Steve McKee

Subject: tbc.

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

11Nov24 Mon (19:30-22:00.hrs)

Talk by: Amelia Williams

Subject: Root Development.

Chiltern Bonsai Society.  
Booker Memorial Hall, Limmer Lane,  
Booker Common, High Wycombe.  
HP12 4QS.

Non-members: £5.

Ctc: Michael Pegg & Adrian Garnett  
Email: mikew.pegg@btinternet.com  
Email: adrian.garnett@virginmedia.com  
[www.chilternbonsai.org.uk](http://www.chilternbonsai.org.uk)

13Nov24 Wed (1945-2200.hrs)

Talk by Mark Kerry

Subject: Junipers

Berkshire Bonsai Society  
Barkham Village Hall, Barkham,  
Berkshire. RG40 4PL

Ctc: Jamie Ewing 07570.368175  
Email: jamie1322@hotmail.co.uk

18Nov24 Mon (1930.hrs)

Talk by Tony Tickle

Subject: tba.

Cheshire Bonsai Society  
Little Budworth Village Hall, Vicarage Lane,  
Little Budworth, Tarporley, Cheshire. CW6  
9BP.

Ctc: Elizabeth Scott 01829.733519  
Email: bonsailiz@hotmail.com

19Nov24 Tue (1930-2200.hrs)

Talk by: Alex Rudd

Subject: Antique Bonsai Pots

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## Notice Board

02Nov24

UKBA Bonsai Display Workshop  
with Peter Warren.

Chobham Village Hall,  
Station Road, Chobham,  
Surrey. GU24 8AQ

You may have seen mention of this workshop which was aimed primarily at ExpoBonsai exhibitors and is a primer on the art of display in a very hands-on way. This workshop is essential for those wishing to display correctly at any show. Numbers are strictly limited but we have a couple of places that have become available at the last minute that we can offer to UKBA members, you will need to immediately contact Steve at ebuk18@gmail.com for full details.

16Feb25 Sun

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

Following on from the very successful virtual Q&A session with a Japanese bonsai master last year, this year's event will highlight a talk in the afternoon given by Alex Rudd of European Bonsai Potters Collective, a talk not to be missed.

16Mar25 Sun

Bonsai -Fest  
Lady Eastwood Centre,  
Newark Showground,  
Lincoln Road, Newark,  
Nottinghamshire. NG24 2NY.

Anybody who is interested in exhibiting a tree please contact exhibitors@bonsai-fest.com, we will then send you an information pack to be completed.

This event already has 160 sales tables confirmed, so anybody interested in booking table space needs to immediately contact the organisers at bookings@bonsai-fest.com.

Thank you.

www.info@bonsai-fest.com

13Apr25 Sun

UKBA Expo Bonsai UK 2025.  
K2 Crawley.

Submissions to enter a tree for possible exhibition in the show are now open. Full details of how to apply are available from Steve Hale at ebuk18@gmail.com We are looking for high quality individual submissions to be displayed in an appropriate manner.  
Thank you.

16-18May25 Fri-Sun

New to the event diary this month  
Southend Bonsai Society Display  
At The National Flower Show.

Hylands House,  
London Road, Writtle,  
Chelmsford, Essex. CM2 8FS.

Adm: tba. Times: 09:30-21:00.hrs  
Ctc: Paul Schofield 07942.679688  
Email: southendbonsaisociety@gmail.com

22Jun25 Sun

New to the event diary this month  
(Change of date previously 18May25)  
Southend Bonsai Society Spring Show

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

Adm: £3. Times: 10:00-16:00.hrs  
Ctc: Paul Schofield 07942.679688  
Email: southendbonsaisociety@gmail.com

29Jun25 Sun

New to the event diary this month  
Penkridge Bonsai Fair  
Penkridge Markets,  
Clovelly, Pinfold Lane,  
Penkridge, Staffordshire. ST19 5AP.  
Adm: Free. Times: 09:00-14:00.hrs  
Contact: Mark Akins Email:  
penkridge@beechfieldbonsai.co.uk

Lost & Found

No matter how many or how big or small your bonsai are, if they ever get stolen it hurts. Peter

Chan of Herons Bonsai Nursery has reported three large trees stolen from his nursery on Wednesday 23Oct24 between the hours of 20:58 and 21.22.hrs. Please keep an eye out in both the physical world and the virtual world for anyone trying to sell these trees. If you do see or hear anything suspicious please immediately contact Peter at Herons Nursery or the Police.



Blaauw's Juniper Chinese Elm



Chinese Elm

### UK Mini Bonsai Group

A new group has been established specialising in mini bonsai, that is trees that are 5cm-15cm tall thus encompassing the Japanese categories of Shito, Mame and small Shohin. As the subject is very specialised, and the members are spread out across the UK, the group will not have regular physical meetings but communicate using WhatsApp and Zoom meetings. The group intend to promote mini bonsai wherever possible, they are displaying at many shows through the UK next year. Whether you're a seasoned enthusiast or relatively new to keeping mini bonsai for more information please contact Gary Careford 07478.604599 (Whatsapp Only)  
Email: ukminibonsaigroup@gmail.com  
www.ukminibonsaigroup.weebly.com  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Workshops

Beechfield Bonsai Workshops

Location: Shropshire Area.

Ctc: Mark Akins

Email: sales@beechfieldbonsai.co.uk  
www.beechfieldbonsai.co.uk

Bonsai4Me

Location: Buckinghamshire Area.

Ctc: Harry Harrington

Email: harry@bonsai4me.co.uk  
www.bonsai4me.com

Caz Bonsai Workshops

Location: Tyne & Wear /  
Northumberland Area

Ctc: Caz Scott 07854.502708

Email: bonsaicaz1@gmail.com

David Cheshire Workshops

Location: Warwickshire Area

Ctc: David Cheshire 07584.991975

info@davidcheshirenurseries.co.uk  
www.davidcheshirenurseries

Greenwood Bonsai  
Location: Nottinghamshire Area  
Ctc: Corin Tomlinson 0115.9205757  
Email: Office@Bonsai.co.uk  
www.bonsai.co.uk

Hérons Bonsai  
Location: Surrey Area.  
Ctc: Peter Chan 01342.832657  
Email: sales@herons.co.uk  
www.hérons.co.uk

John Hanby Bonsai  
Location: Barnsley Area.  
Ctc: John Hanby 07399.383106  
Email: john@johnhanbybonsai.co.uk  
www.johnhanbybonsai.co.uk

Mendip Bonsai Studio Workshops  
Location: Somerset Area.  
Ctc: JohnTrott. 07711.205806.  
Email: john@mendipbonsai.co.uk  
www.mendipbonsai.co.uk

Rammon Hamers Workshops  
Location: Uttoxeter / Staffordshire Area.  
Ctc: Rammon Hammers 07775.269597  
Email: rhamers85@gmail.com  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Monthly Tasks

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

Hopefully all of your bonsai trees are now being protected for the winter and here is a quick generic guide to bonsai in November as the colder weather has now arrived in the UK.

#### Preparation for Winter

Check all your bonsai trees for health to ensure that they are all in good health before the change in weather as the stronger your trees are the better chances they have of coming through the winter in good health.

Ensure that before placing them under cover or into a cold greenhouse that the leaves for broadleaves have been removed as dead leaves rot and can cause mold and fungi to build up and affect the buds for next spring.

#### Watering:

Your bonsai trees will still need watering but not as often as their growth rate has slowed right down so the water uptake has also slowed down and the trees are going into winter dormancy.

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 regularly but this will have slowed down from a daily watering. 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 repotting can be undertaken but avoid early repotting if you have no protection for the tree like a cold frame or green house if frosts are likely. Otherwise prepare for repotting by checking soil supplies and also that if you are looking to change the pot that you have the correct pot size to repot into.

#### Feeding:

Generally feeding in November is not required as broadleaves trees are dormant and without leaves and conifers or evergreens have slowed down on growth during this period. However, continue to lightly feed tropical trees that are kept indoors if they are still showing signs of growth to sustain them during this period.

#### Pruning:

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

#### Trimming:

This is not required to either broadleaved or coniferous trees in November. 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. Given that the frosts have started though avoid repotting now until the spring.

#### Insects and pests:

Continue to check your bonsai trees over fully for pests, insects and diseases as some insects can over winter on or in your trees like red spider mite, scale insect and if you have not applied a winter pesticide or removed unwanted pests before now it is a chance to do so.

Pests are also likely if the weather is mild so worth checking to avoid disappointment in the spring when buds or leaves fail to flush due to pest attack. Typical pests still around include scale insect, mites, aphids and soil borne larva, vine weevil and beetles.

#### Moss and weed control:

This is the time to carry out pre winter preparation and to remove any weed and moss issues particularly around the trunks of bonsai trees prior to winter.

The aim is to have a clear 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 taugth and not digging into the bark causing wire marks and re-set if necessary or tighten.

This is also a good time to wire Pines and Larches to set the branches over the winter and it is an easier time to wire certain species like broadleaved varieties as the leaves have fallen off.

#### Protection:

For those trees in your bonsai collection that are more sensitive to cold weather try to provide them with some winter protection from the frosts especially if they are in small pots. The smaller the tree the more vulnerable to winter weather damage they are.

Options for protection include

- Under benches
- Cold greenhouse
- Cold frames
- Shade netting
- Fleeces
- Double potting placing one pot inside a larger pot
- Pot protection with fleeces, polystyrene, wooden box

Certain tree species are more vulnerable due to their sensitive foliage type or root type so protect species like Yews, Ginkgo's, Ilex, Swamp Cypress and species with fleshy roots.

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Interview

UKBA Interview With  
Alex Rudd  
of EBPC

### How did bonsai come into your life?

I've been practising bonsai for about 15 years, but it had long been in my background. Over 40 years ago my dad kept a few bonsai, so they were a part of my childhood, albeit in the periphery. About 25 years ago, we sadly lost my dad, and his trees were unfortunately (oops!) left to their own devices for years. A decade later, 2 were still alive (a Shishi' & a Mikawa yatsubusa), so I decided I must keep these two alive! And that's what started my journey!

... I realised if I wanted them healthy again, I had to understand their horticultural needs and growing habits. I read a lot, and studied with various artists, including firstly Harry Harrington, and also Lee Verhorevoort - both of whom remain friends and huge inspirations to me.

After maybe a year or so, I joined a bonsai club. Maidstone bonsai society was a lot of fun, and joining was one of the best things I did. I'd highly recommend anyone with an interest in bonsai to join their local club.



Alex giving a pot talk at The Trophy Bonsai Exhibition 2019.

**What was so great about joining a bonsai club?**

Clubs are fantastic! As well as being a lot of fun, the club gave me another resource for better understanding of my trees. Help is always on hand! But also, it soon also opened my eyes to many aspects of this great hobby that were still completely new to me. E.g., I was introduced to the joys of displaying trees. After having only enjoyed them on the garden benches, the thought of someday maybe displaying I found quite exciting and that motivated me more to improve my trees. Visiting my first exhibition was quite an experience. I'd seen quite good trees before, but I was amazed how great they can look when displayed properly. I was hooked and wanted to understand how to display well, and what all the different elements within the display meant. I am still on that fascinating journey and loving every minute of it!

... but again, the best thing about clubs are the likeminded people – from all walks of life, but with a shared passion. Many of these are now lifelong friends.



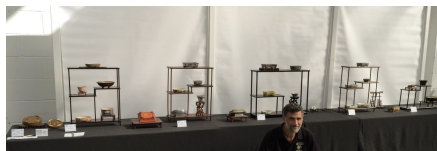
An Olive I developed from the bare trunk, with initial guidance from Harry.

**What exactly is it about bonsai pots that you are so passionate about?**

There are a few things. I'm fascinated by the incredible impact the pot choice has on the overall composition. Just small changes in the pot's details drastically affects how the overall bonsai is perceived. It was these finer details that really captivated me. The pot is in essence another element of the bonsai. Just like deadwood, or a defining branch, pot choice can be adjusted to create exactly the right impression. To create high level bonsai, it helps to understand the intricacies of a pot and their effect on a tree.

Pots are also captivating themselves! The charismatic forms and glazes carry the culture and history of their makers. An interest in Japanese pots not only increases your appreciation of bonsai, and ceramics, but also that of a fascinating culture. Bonsai evolved within the culture and philosophies of Japan, so to understand them is to better understand bonsai.

I love how bonsai and pottery are both ancient art forms, where magnificent creations, that will far outlive me, are made purely from mud, water and few minerals. It is the time, passion, and years of dedication that are the true ingredients in both a bonsai and in bonsai ceramics.



EBPC Display of 'Ogurayama' pots for Wirral club show 2019.

**How did you obtain your knowledge about pots?**

I think it was my stubbornness. Just over a decade ago, there was almost no information on Japanese bonsai pots in the West. This enigma was both frustrating and enticing, but I was desperate to know more about these beautiful items.

The only true way to appreciate an item is to hold it in your hands, and study it - so I began collecting pots, and carefully considered their characteristics (after selling up & moving in with mum, and then my long-suffering girlfriend). I now have an extensive collection, with pots in every room. I religiously researched Japanese pot sites for information, and started learning to read Japanese, to try and decipher the Japanese pot books. In America, Ryan Bell of 'Japanesebonsaipots.net' remains a huge inspiration. A pioneer in the West, Ryan decoded vast amounts of information relating to Asian bonsai pottery previously unknown. It was an honour to host him when he visited the UK - a lot of fun visiting museums, and he delivered a fascinating pot talk to some of the EBPC potters and friends in my local pub. Another great influence is Peter Krebs. His comprehension of Asian bonsai ceramics, which he kindly shares on his website, is unsurpassed in Europe. It has allowed him to emulate the great masters of yesteryear and produce works of incredible character and integrity. In my opinion all potters should study from the great masters whilst perfecting their own style.

**How did the idea of EBPC come about?**

Again from a frustrating lack of info and availability of good pots. The concept grew organically from an exchange of ideas with potters; Andrew Pearson, Tom Benda and Thor Holvila. It developed as the obvious solution to a bunch of existing problems. At shows, we discussed the lack of information, and how hard it is for people to source the right pots for their trees. Many potters don't have a website and some only trade at local bonsai shows. Production is often low as 95% also have a full-time job.

So, with a mission to create one platform where enthusiasts could get information and find great pots for their trees, ... and to support the potters - the EBPC was born. It is humbling how many wonderful people in the community supported and helped out with this venture, and continue to.

European bonsai is growing considerably, and the quality of the work produced by a limited few potters now rivals that of the Japanese. As a bonsai pot collector and passionate enthusiast, I am honoured to support the

European potters and help European bonsai pottery to continue to flourish. The aim of the EBPC was never to sell a lot of pots but to celebrate the works of Europe's leading artists, and make the info and some special pots available to bonsai enthusiasts. As these artisanal pots are handmade for the EBPC, production levels are low. The EBPC offers a small batch of perhaps 10 to 20 new pots by each artist whenever the artists can make them.

As people often ask me to identify their European pots for them, I also started to log them all in a database. The 'EBPD' is now the largest database there is for European bonsai potters' stamps, which many people find to be a helpful resource.



One of the 60 EBPC 'member artists' Tomas Gramming of Sweden.

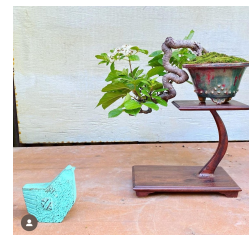
**Why is it so important to use quality handmade pots?**

I think our trees deserve it. We spend so much time and care, and often money, on our trees that for me it is only right that they are dressed in a pot of a suitable quality. A cheap mass-produced pot really stands out and can let a good tree down. It's a bit like going to a job interview in an expensive Gucci suit, with Asda trainers.

And like many things in life, I'm not rich enough to buy cheap pots! Cheap pots are worth next to nothing second hand, whereas good quality pots tend to increase in value, so much so that many people now buy bonsai pots purely for investment purposes. Spending money on wire, soil, and pots in bonsai is inevitable, losing money on pots is optional.

For me, using handmade pots also opened up a whole new level of appreciation for trees, and for ceramics and art in general. Considering pot choice forces you to examine your tree more closely and consider options. The more we are aware of something, the more we appreciate it, and the more beauty is opened up to us, that was once hidden.

There are now thousands of EBPC stamped pots out there, and I very much enjoy seeing them with their trees at exhibitions.



A EBPC customer's tree in the States, in a pot by popular French artist, Sami Amdouni.

**You organise the pot displays at some of Europe's main bonsai exhibitions too, how did that come about?**

Well in many ways, I have you to thank for that Mark. As a collector I was captivated by the exquisite pot competitions they have at the major Japanese bonsai shows. Then you gave me the opportunity to put on the first pot display at Heathrow Bonsai show in 2017. European exhibitions did not have pot displays at the time, but soon we were organising pot displays at high level shows across Europe, including the annual 100ft display at the prestigious 'Trophy Exhibition' in Belgium. The emphasis on quality pots is becoming far more prevalent at shows. Pot talks, demonstrations, and more pot traders are now common at exhibitions across Europe. The pot displays at exhibitions further bring together artists, collectors, and enthusiasts, and it is a real pleasure to see bonsai pots increasingly appreciated by a more knowledgeable bonsai community.



Annual 100ft EBPC pot display at The Trophy Exhibition, Belgium.

**Which kind of pots do you personally like best?**

As functional items, for me, the best pot must be the one that best enhances the tree. Generally, the pots that I most like tend not to be too fussy, often unassuming, relying on proven form and proportion, quality of build and use of refined glazes and pot details to set them apart. It may not be fair to disclose my favourite Euro potters, but perhaps artists such as 'Wajaku' (Japan), who carved every pot from a solid clay block for structural integrity (a technique called 'kurinuki'). He used just a few classical shapes, the essence of which was altered by the combination of a few well proportioned 'details' e.g. rim, foot, corners, and banding. With these limited shapes and detail designs, Wajaku created a diversity of refined pot forms to cater for most trees. Although most of his works are unglazed, the quality of his glazing is also of the highest standard. I am captivated by good glazes, often those with a more organic feel. Many of the great glazes imitate an aspect of nature, whether that be blood, precious stones, the tones of a sea cucumber or even mould. It is hard not to be in awe of some of the excellent painted and carved bonsai pots. With such intricacy and depth, if on canvass, some would surely be hanging in museums.

**Which one is your favourite tree and which is your favourite pot?**

I admire different trees at different times of the year. A definite favourite will always be a 'Shishigashira', or 'Lion's mane' maple that was my dad's. Although not my 'best' tree, it is a nice 2ft tall bonsai and holds enormous sentimental value. Another is a large Arakawa, or 'cork bark' maple. This tree has a pleasing

nebari, trunk and branch placement and I look forward to developing it further. I also have quite a few Junipers, Olives and pines, which I enjoy working on.

The pot that means the most to me was made for me by the 3 founding EBPC members mentioned as a thank you for my support. I was deeply shocked when I was presented with this collaboration piece in the form of Thor's hammer from Norse Mythology. This fantastical

piece shows a wealth of techniques and is beautifully formed, inscribed, and has a leather effect handle with rope design, capped with a ram's head. A pot I will always treasure.



Accepting the beloved gift, from Andrew, Thor & Tom in 2018.

**What do you think about the bonsai scene today and which development do you expect in future?**

Bonsai in Europe currently has a great buzz about it. Exhibitions are more spectacular each year and the quality and refinement of trees we see continues to improve. More hobbyists are visiting shows abroad and displaying trees with more suitable pot choices and well thought out displays.

I hope to see this continue and believe that supporting exhibitions and local clubs is key for further growth. It is only by encouraging and informing new hobbyists through clubs, magazines and the internet that European bonsai can continue to grow.

Bonsai pottery is very exciting at the moment, both European and Japanese. It is exciting to see so many more people taking an interest in quality bonsai pots, and to see European bonsai pottery so highly regarded worldwide.

**Any final thoughts?**

Maybe just to say that European bonsai is a really exciting and dynamic scene right now, with so many passionate people working together to support and elevate the art. Education is key and enthusiasts are encouraged to join bonsai clubs, & visit exhibitions to get the most out of the hobby. Support your local artists and nurseries and together we can all enjoy even higher quality bonsai, as well as the many other benefits this wonderful hobby brings.

And thank you all for helping the EBPC support great European bonsai potters!

Alex Rudd  
European Bonsai Potters Collective

\*\*\*\*\*

**UKBA Quiz Nov24**

word sudoku  
using BLACK PINE

			A		K			C
	K		E	B	N			I
I	E	A		L				K
	I		B		A	C		
P	L						B	A
		U	C		L		I	
K				C		P	E	N
N			I	K	E			
L			N		P			

\*\*\*

**Answers to Oct24 Quiz**

Code Word Answers

- 1) FIG
- 2) BOX
- 3) IVY
- 4) OAK
- 5) ELM
- 6) AZALEA
- 7) CHESTNUT
- 8) JUNIPER
- 9) QUINCE
- 10) WILLOW
- 11) CEDAR
- 12) BEECH

\*\*\*\*\*

For bulletin queries: 07850.771201  
markmoreland@live.co.uk  
ukbonsaiassociation@gmail.com

