

UK Bonsai Association

www.ukbonsaiassoc.org



Bulletin Oct24

In this Oct24 Bulletin
Opening Introduction
6 Bonsai Events for Oct24 & Nov24
7 Bonsai Event Reports for Sep24
17 Club Talks for Oct24 & Nov24
Notice Board
Monthly Task List for Oct24
Interview with Paul Bowerbank
No Collectables This Month
Quiz

Welcome to this month's Bulletin.

Another summer behind us, one can only be thankful we were spared the sizzling heat of summer 2022 again and the subsequent problems that inflicted on our bonsai collections. October, usually an amazing time of the year where we see deciduous trees dropping their leaves and exposing their skeleton-like branch structure. A time of the year where many bonsai enthusiasts critique their bare trees and make plans for any major branch adjustments.

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 01Oct24 at 1900.hrs.

Bonsai Events

Oct24 & Nov24

05&06Oct24 Sat & Sun (Confirmed)
The Bonsai Show Live 2024
Telford International Centre, International Way, Telford, Shropshire. TF3 4JH.
Adm Online: £15/Day or £25/Weekend.
Adm Door: £17.50/Day or £30/Weekend.
Times: 0930-1600.hrs
Contact: Mark Akins
Email: info@thebonsaishowlive.co.uk
Website: www.thebonsaishowlive.co.uk

Demonstrations by:

Caroline Scott	Laurent Darrieux
Mauro Stemberger	Peter Chan
Rammon Hamers	Robert Atkinson
Yoshiro Ohno	

Supporting Traders:

Ange Bonsai Pots	Beechfield Bonsai
Bon-Tag	Bonsai By Wirez
Bonsai4me	Box Wood Bonsai
Brookfield Plants	Dan Lake

D P Tree Sculptures	
David Chechire Nurseries	
David Sampson	Derbyshire Bonsai
Dragonfly Bonsai Pots	Elmbrook
Everysprout	Green Dragon Bonsai
Maple Leaf Ceramics	Mendip Bonsai
Oakfield Bonsai	Oceana Bonsai Feed
RH Bonsai	Rowena Edwards
Shohin-Bonsai	Shoka Bonsai
Tony Remington Ceramics	Troll Pots
Urban Bonsai UK	Warrington Bonsai UK
Wattston Bonsai	Way Of Life Bonsai
Wilderness Bonsai	Windybank Bonsai

12&13Oct24 Sat & Sun (Confirmed)

Dragon Bonsai Autumn Show
Open workshop & Clinic
Masion Aberglasney Gardens,
Llangathen, Carmarthenshire, Wales. SA32 8QH.
Adm: £9.50 Children Free
Times: Sat 1000-1600.hrs Sun 1000-1500.hrs
Contact: Chris Thomas 07798.798194
Email: chris.thomas1@sky.com

13Oct24 Sun (Confirmed)

13th Heathrow Bonsai Show
Sponsored by UKBA
Bracknell Leisure Centre,
Bagshot Road, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 9SE.
Adm & Times:

10:00-15:00.hrs £8 Adults

15:00-16:00.hrs £4 Adults

Accompanied under 16.yrs Free.

Contact: Mark Moreland 07850.771201

Email: ukbonsaiassociation@gmail.com

www.heathrowbonsai.weebly.com

Supporting Clubs:

Bedfordshire Bonsai Society
Berkshire Bonsai Society
Blackmore Vale Bonsai Group
Bristol Bonsai Society British Suiseki Club
Bury St Edmunds & Cambridge BS
Cardiff Bonsai Society Celtic Knot Bonsai
Chichester Bonsai Society
Chiltern Bonsai Society
Crawley Bonsai Society Creative Companions
Dragon Bonsai Society
Eastleigh Bonsai Society Exeter Bonsai Society
Glynderi Bonsai Society
International Saikei Association
Ipswich Bonsai Club Middlesex Bonsai Society
Mid-Herts Bonsai Club
Newbury Bonsai Society
North London Bonsai Group
Northamptonshire Bonsai Society
Salisbury Bonsai Society Shiten Bonsai Society
Solent Bonsai Society Somerset Bonsai Society
South East Bonsai Club
South Wales Bonsai Collective
Southend Bonsai Society Splinter Bonsai Group
Staverton Bonsai Group
Surrey Heath Bonsai Society
Sussex Bonsai Society Sutton Bonsai Society
Swindon Bonsai Society The Bonsai Boys
Twickenham Bonsai UK Mini Bonsai Group
Warminster Bonsai Society

Supporting Traders:

Ato-Saki Bonsai	Beech Field Bonsai
Bonsai Brushstrokes	Bonsai4Me
Bonsai Stands & Stuff	Bon-Tag
Brookfield Plants	BW Bespoke Bonsai Stands
Chris Thomas Bonsai	Collette's Bonsai
Christine And Stewart's Bonsai Pots	
David Cheshire Bonsai	Dave Sampson
Dei Ceramics	Dragonfly Bonsai Pots
European Bonsai Pot Collective	
Everysprout	Glynderi Bonsai

Gordon Duffett	Greenwood Bonsai
Hadori Bonsai	Hereward Trees
Hinata Ceramics	LV Bonsai
House Of British Bonsai & Yamadori	
Mendip Bonsai	Oceana
Oakfield Bonsai Supplies	
RH Bonsai	Shohin-Bonsai
Spectre Ceramics	Springwood Ceramics
Stone Monkey Ceramics	
SutekiWindybank Bonsai	Woodandclay
Zacs Bonsai	Zenwurz Woodcrafts

27Oct24 Sun (Confirmed)

Blackmore Vale Bonsai Group Auction
Charlton Remembrance Hall,
Charlton, Shaftsbury, Dorset. SP7 0PL.
Adm: Free. Times: 0830/1100-1700.hrs.
Contact: Geoff 07837.781744
Email: m5eay.geoff@btinternet.com
www.blackmorevalebonsaigroup.com

02&03Nov24 Sat & Sun (Confirmed)

Greenwood Bonsai Autumn Exhibition
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

17Nov24 Sun (Confirmed)

Southend Bonsai Society Winter Show
Ashingdon Memorial Hall, Ashingdon
Road, Rochford, Essex. SS4 3HF.
Adm: £3. Times: 1000-1600.hrs
Ctc: Paul Schofield 07942.679688
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 UKBA website. www.ukbonsaiassoc.org

01Sep24 Sun
East Anglian Bonsai Show



07Sep24 Sat
8 Bonsai Journeys



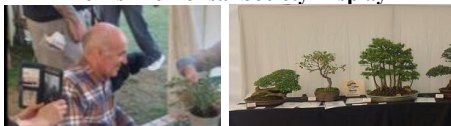
7&8Sep24 Sat & Sun
Dragon Bonsai Workshop & Auction



13-15Sep24 Fri-Sun
Yorkshire Bonsai Society



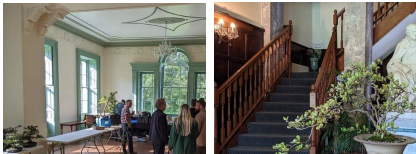
14Sep24 Sat
Berkshire Bonsai Society Display



14-15Sep24
Northern Ireland Bonsai Society Display



15Sep24 Sun
Bonsai In The Park



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

02Oct24 Wed (1945-2200.hrs)
Talk by Steve McKee
Subject: Accents And Displaying.
Surrey Heath Bonsai Society
Chobham Village Hall,
Station Road, Chobham, Surrey. GU24 8AQ
Ctc: Chris Rhodes 01276.20893
Email: rhodes163@googlemail.com

03Oct24 Thu (1930-2130.hrs)
Talk by Rammon Hamers
Subject: Rock Planting
Ashfield Bonsai Club
Evergreen Club,
Cornhill, Allestree, Derbyshire. DE22 2FT
Ctc: Mike Rose 07968.951515
Email: rosemike1960@gmail.com

03Oct24 Thu (1930.hrs)
Talk by Malcolm Hughes
Subject: Tree Critique

Midlands Bonsai Society
Moseley Cricket Club,
105 Streetbrook Road,
Shirley, Solihull, Midlands. B90 3PE.
Ctc: Richard Gilkes 07803.593024
Email: ragilkes@blueyonder.co.uk

03Oct24 Thu (1900-2200.hrs)
Talk by David Cheshire
Subject: tbc.

Northamptonshire Bonsai Society
Weston Favell Parish Hall, Booth Lane South,
Weston Favell, Northamptonshire. NN3 3NS.
1st Thu Monthly. 1900-2200.hrs
Ctc: Richard Boyles 07768.636715
secretary@northamptonshirebonsaisociety.co.uk

14Oct24 Mon (2000-2200.hrs)
Talk by John Hanby
Subject: tbc.
Manchester Bonsai Society
Stockport Labour Club,
2 Lloyd Street, Heaton Norris,
Stockport, Cheshire. SK4 1QP.
Ctc: Wayne Crumpton 07742.111142
Email: mbsmembershipssecretary@gmail.com

15Oct24 Tue (1930-22.00.hrs)
Talk by Caroline (Caz) Scott
Subject: Pines & Junipers
National Bonsai Society
Banks Leisure Centre,
Greaves Hall Avenue, Banks,
Southport, Merseyside. PR9 8BL.
Ctc: Stephen Holland 0151.9338757
Email: sholland19547@gmail.com

17Oct24 Thu (1930.hrs)
Talk by: Wes Pinfield
Subject: Winter Protection.
Redditch Bonsai Society
Webheath Village Hall, Heathfield Road,
Redditch, Midlands. B97 5SQ,
Ctc: Richard Gilkes 07803.593024
Email: ragilkes@blueyonder.co.uk

21Oct24 Mon (1930.hrs)
Talk by Caroline (Caz) Scott
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

23Oct24 Wed (1930-2200.hrs)
Talk by: Alex Rudd
Subject: Bonsai Pot Selection
Sussex Bonsai Group
Wivelsfield Green Village Hall,
Eastern Road, Wivelsfield Green,
West Sussex. RH17 7QH.
Ctc: Ray Brunsten 07342.650713
Email: ray.brunsten@gmail.com

30Oct24 Wed (1930-2200.hrs)
Talk by David Cheshire
Subject: Root Over Rock Planting
Derby & District Bonsai Association
Grange Hall Community Centre, Park Lane,
Littleover, Derbyshire. DE23 6FX.
Last Wed Monthly (except Dec) 1930-2200.hrs
Ctc: Tony Lloyd 01332.679584
Email: tlloyd98@gmail.com

31Oct24 Thu (1930-2200.hrs)
Talk by John Hanby
Subject: Critique of members trees
Ambion Bonsai Society
Hatters Space, Upper Abbey street,
Nuneaton, Warwickshire. CV11 5DN.
Ctc: Peter Fielding 07976.271159
Email: peterfielding1@hotmail.co.uk

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

07Nov24 Thu (1930.hrs)
Talk by Wes Pinfield & Mark Skan
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

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

13Oct24 Sun
13th Heathrow Bonsai Show
Sponsored by UKBA
Bracknell Leisure Centre,

Bagshot Road, Bracknell,
Berkshire, RG12 9SE.

This year's new show badge highlights a Juniper chinensis owned by Dale Nutbeam who's tree was part of the Staverton Bonsai Group display that won best club display as chosen by the public at last year's show. All exhibitors, traders and helpers at this year's show will receive one badge free, with additional badges available to purchase by visitors on the day for £4.

Please bring your own mug to this year's Heathrow Show.

Using a reusable cup not only benefits the environment but also offers health advantages and potential cost savings.

It's Environmentally Friendly!!! All the coffee shops are doing it.

We can do it , too.

Use your own mug and get discount on your tea/coffee in the show



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 handful of places left which we are offering to UKBA members on a first come first served basis. Please contact Steve at ebuk18@gmail.com for full details.

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.

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.

Following the ever popular badges previously issued at Expo Bonsai Shows, the UKBA will be issuing additional special limited badges strictly for exhibitors only, back dated to this years Aprils show. The new post dated exhibitors badge for the 14Apr24 Expo Show will highlight the best in show tree from the 2023 show a Pine owned by Lee Fincham this also appeared on the general 2024 show badge.

So from immediate effect, our intention is to issue two badges for every Expo Show, one for general circulation and another special limited badge for exhibitors only.



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, in the near future hopefully, regular Zoom meetings. The group intend to promote mini bonsai wherever possible, they are displaying both at East Anglia Bonsai Show and Heathrow Bonsai Show in the next couple of months.

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

Wessex Bonsai Society

With immediate effect David Finch will be the main contact for Wessex Bonsai Society.
Ctc: David Finch 07760.860018
Email: wessexbonsaisociety@ymail.com
www.wessexbonsai.co.uk

Wirral Bonsai Society

With immediate effect Ian Jardine will be the main contact for Wirral Bonsai Society.
Ctc: Ian Jardine 07742.439619
Email: ian.jardine@hotmail.com
www.wirralbonsaisociety.wordpress.com

Workshops

Beechfield Bonsai Workshops

Location: Shropshire Area.

Ctc: Mark Akins

Email: sales@beechfieldbonsai.co.uk

www.beachfieldbonsai.co.uk

Bonsai4Me

Location: BuckinghamshireArea.

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

Email:

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

Herons Bonsai

Location: Surrey Area.

Ctc: Peter Chan 01342.832657

Email: sales@herons.co.uk

www.herons.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 October, 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 October

This is the time to start preparing for the winter now that autumn is here. It is a chance to review your requirements and options for winter protection and prepare your trees. It is also a great time of year to admire your deciduous bonsai trees as they put on a good autumnal display. Here is a quick generic guide to bonsai in October as the colder and wet weather starts to arrive in the UK.

Preparation for Winter:

Check all your bonsai trees 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 the leaves for broadleaves have been removed as dead leaves rot and can cause mould and fungi to build up and affect the buds for next spring.

The leaves should fall naturally but some species tend to hold onto their leaves longer so if they do not fall naturally then they can be removed once they have changed colour and start to fade or shrivel.

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 and morning dew. 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.

Re-potting:

This is a good time to check your bonsai supplies and soils as the repotting season is coming and it is good to have sufficient supplies in stock.

If you are looking to change the pot that you have the correct pot size to repot into.

Feeding:

Generally feeding in October is not required as broadleaves trees are becoming dormant and are without leaves or shedding their leaves. You can continue to lightly feed conifers and evergreens during this period.

Also 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.

This is also a good time to carve dead wood, jins and sharis now that the leaves are starting to fall.

Trimming:

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

This is the best time to remove old needles from two needle pines and clean out the dead needles and carry out any structural pruning of pines.

Root pruning:

None required yet as not quite the repotting season.

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.

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 taught and not digging into the bark causing wire marks and re-set if necessary or tighten. This is the time to start removing , adjusting or re-applying wire.

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 on 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.

Propagation:

This is the start of the lifting season for digging trees and shrubs out of the ground in preparation to transplant them. If you are looking to collect a tree known as Yamadori then this is the start of the season to prepare trees for winter collection. This can be done by cutting a circle around the rooting area in the ground now prior to lifting the tree fully in the coming months.

This is also a great time to start collecting seed in preparation for planting them up for next March in the Spring.

Hardwood cuttings can also be taken in October as a method of propagating from your trees that are now not in leaf.

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

Page 4 of 6

Paul Bowerbank
of Swindon Bonsai Society



Paul presenting John Pitt with one of his many awards.

How did you get started?

Way back in the 70's, I was in the Army in Germany. I must have seen pictures of bonsai and thought, like a lot of you out there, that I would give it a go. So whilst't on home leave I started the good old horse chestnut, back then I didn't know that there were bonsai nurseries or other growers. I managed to get it to grow and put it in my Mum's garden while I was away. If I got home leave during the early part of the year I would lift it and sort out the roots, I also put a bit of a bend in it. On my return to the UK and getting my own home the tree was transferred to a pot and I still have it to remember how it all started. It's nothing special but at least I have reduced the big leaves.



How did you learn about bonsai?

The answer above was how I started but it was some years later that I started learning about small trees. My wife was working at the local school in Swindon and got chatting with the Chairperson of the Swindon bonsai club. She didn't grow them but her husband did and lived a short distance from my house so we were invited round for a cuppa. My jaw dropped when I saw Ron's trees. I spent quite a few months helping him with them, especially lifting the big ones around and struggling with re potting. I was then invited to attend the Swindon club to speak to other growers. Luckily with the likes of Reg Bolton and Terry Adams who both regularly displayed on the Fobbs stand at The Chelsea Flower Show I was in good hands for advice. Ron Moorcroft had been growing them for some years and I literally spent several years practicing on his trees before I was given several stumps from club members with the usual..... "See what you can do with that son", of course I was much younger back then HAAAAHA. The internet was becoming popular and this helped with lots of photographs of trees and further advice. I may not be a specimen grower or expert, but I really enjoyed turning those

01/10/24

given stumps into what I considered to be small trees. Ron and my other good friend, Frank Worfolk, both Swindon members, they helped me greatly and they also produced a number of ceramic pots, now owned by some around the UK and marked as 'Moorfolk'

Who was your teacher?

Mostly I would say Ron Moorcroft taught me in my younger years, then other members of the club and club Saturday workshops with experts like Lee Verhorevoort, John Armitage, John Pitt, John Trott and others.



Ron & Jean Moorcroft.

What is the most important thing that you learned from him?

I suppose patience, and not to rush things, also to improve the tree a little every year..... a little at a time. Most of what I do is self taught, probably why my skills and knowledge are not as good as some in this hobby, BUT I enjoy what I do and then I can enjoy the special trees belonging to others who are the much better growers. It is a hobby where you never stop learning, no matter how much you think you know.

Do you belong to a bonsai club?

Yes, I am still a member of the Swindon & District Bonsai Club since about 1995. Little did I know that I would become the club chairman some years later!!! Around 2010x I started organising the Swindon "Winter Image Show". A change of venue to Grange Drive Leisure Centre meant a lot more work not only for me but for club members with transport, setting up, manning the show and taking everything down and back to storage. The standard of trees and display has increased over the years and hopefully it has a good name as a must-see event. I always try to keep a balance in the show, with clubs, invited guests and traders. At every show we invite some with reasonable trees but never really show them, they take up the challenge and it would be hard to find their displays amongst all the others, thereby improving show knowledge and promoting thought regarding bonsai display. Without this chance to display we would never see some of the trees or owners.



Your thoughts on bonsai or dreams?

A tough one to answer. I have always tried passing on my knowledge and promoting the hobby by getting the info out to others. Without younger people taking up this hobby and getting involved at both individual and club level it will become stagnant.

Do you consider bonsai an art form?

Of course it has some form of art, mostly in the styling of your trees and also the correct selection of pot to compliment the tree. Some of this is bound to be personal choice and what you see in the overall picture.

Why do you practice bonsai?

A question often asked me by the long suffering wife, usually after a number of years without a holiday. Well someone has to be here to water the trees!!!!!! I like to take ugly trees, like those given to me in the early years, and turn them into something. They won't win any prizes but to me they are at least tree shape and enjoyed by those who visit my garden. Several of the trees donated to me by the original owner would love to have them returned.....no chance!

Do you have a favourite tree species or size tree?

I have tried most species, and sizes. Never really got on with azaleas and find pines hard work so don't really grow them. I do like elms and larch. Plus, I take far too many cuttings whilst pruning and as I get older these cuttings are being turned into small trees that I can easily carry. Plus I am in competition with Kit Bowns and his small trees.



Do you have a favourite bonsai?

I have several in my collection, a Siberian elm that started as not much more than a trunk and a European Larch which had an ugly base to the trunk when I started. Both of these were given me trees. The Siberian suffered the other year in that heat and lost a lot of its growth so it's a case of start again with it. The other was a mother and child hawthorn, it had just started flowering on both sides and then got hit with that strange year and I lost it.

Do you have a favourite Potter?

With so many good potters to choose from in the UK I do like a good John Pitt, David Jones at Walsall, Dan Barton and Gordon Duffett. I also have loads from other potters and always look for the unusual ones.

What mistakes have you made?

Too many to mention, but then that's the way to learn. Trying to rush things with my trees, instead of taking it slowly. Also the mistake that many of us find and that's having too many trees and not being able to spend enough time on each. It would have been nice when I started to use better material but then we are talking about higher prices to be paid, unless you can get out into the country to collect good stock.

Have you experienced bonsai abroad?

I have attended the 'Noelanders' show and enjoyed the experience, it was very busy at the old premises and crowds of visitors made things difficult. I must try and get over to the new

venue but travelling that far is awkward. Unfortunately I have yet to travel to Japan.

Can you recommend one or two bonsai books?

Like others I have a large collection of books, never really get time to read them all cover to cover but enjoy and use the photos in them to get ideas on styling my own trees. I find that some of the information in the books is outdated and only current at the time of publishing. The "Bonsai, It's Art, Science, History and Philosophy" by Deborah Koreshoff and "Growing & Displaying Bonsai" by Colin Lewis & Neil Sutherland are the two main ones I regularly use.

What is your best achievement?

Sorry but I am not a big award winner. I was pleased to be awarded joint Best tree at the Heathrow show I think in 2016 with the Siberian Elm, although I am sure that Bill Baker's tree was much better. I have several merit awards within the Swindon club shows and the Best Accent award, judged and sponsored by John Trott at Mendip bonsai for the 'Best Accent' in 2017 at our own show, which was a bit of an embarrassment.



Do you have any future ambitions or goals?

Mainly to keep and improve what I have already in the garden. Maybe to get over to the "Trophy" while I can. I am training up the next club member to take over the running of the "Winter Image" show so that I can hand the baton to him soon. This should refresh the show and improve it for future years.

Over the years what has been your favourite bonsai show?

They are all good and I can appreciate the hard work that it takes into arranging and running of the shows. If I had to pick one and not the Swindon show hahaha, it would be the Heathrow show, where you can see and compare club displays. Good to see how, over time, the displays have improved, [in the main]. Looking back at pictures of the show where every tree in the club is put on display to present day, more are well thought out, with a better use of the space allowed and direction of trees to improve the display.

Do you have any other interests or hobbies?

I used to do a lot of swimming and water polo, [I know you wouldn't think that now] but as the swimming clubs lost its

older members and access to good pools with decent depth of water became difficult I had to give it up. I enjoy making marquetry pictures, using wood veneers, mainly from kits, but I have a selection of veneers and one day I will do my own..... If I can find some time!!!



UKBA Quiz Oct24

Code Word

Simply work out the cipher to name the 12 trees (No Latin names).

To help you get started K=3 and Z=22

- 1) 5, 21, 18
- 2) 4, 17, 15
- 3) 21, 25, 16
- 4) 17, 10, 3
- 5) 1, 14, 6
- 6) 10, 22, 10, 14, 1, 10
- 7) 9, 2, 1, 8, 23, 20, 12, 23
- 8) 19, 12, 20, 21, 7, 1, 26
- 9) 24, 12, 21, 20, 9, 1
- 10) 13, 21, 14, 14, 17, 13
- 11) 9, 1, 11, 10, 26
- 12) 4, 1, 1, 9, 2

Answers to Sept24 Quiz

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



For bulletin queries: 07850.771201
 markmoreland@live.co.uk
 ukbonsaiassociation@gmail.com
 Mark & Mingchen Moreland