

UK Bonsai Association

www.ukbonsaiassoc.org



Bulletin Jan24

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Welcome to this month's Bulletin.

May we wish everybody a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Last year was a very positive year for UK bonsai. Nearly all of the scheduled events went ahead with most organisers reporting record attendances, fingers crossed that this carries on. Unfortunately, 2023 has seen two clubs closing down. On a more positive note however, lots of clubs and societies have reported growing membership numbers, very good news. We are pleased to observe that this year's schedule of events is looking even busier and now is the time to cross check your personal diary with the UKBA events diary on the website.

As we normally do, we remind you that it's much cheaper to book those hotel bedrooms well in advance, leaving it until the last minute can prove expensive. Whenever travelling to an event please double check the events diary, we update this diary immediately we receive any changes from the organisers.

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

If you can make any contributions to the UKBA website or this news bulletin 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 02Jan24 at 1900.hrs.

Mark Moreland
UKBA

Bonsai Events

Jan24 & Feb24

14Jan24 (Confirmed)
Ayrshire Bonsai Club Winter Image Show
Alloway Village Hall, 36a Alloway,
Ayrshire. KA7 4PY.
Adm: Free. Times:1330-1700.hrs
Contact: Jeff Banning 07799.477895
Email: jeffbanning@btinternet.com

20Jan24 Sat (Confirmed)
Middlesex Bonsai Society Winter 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

04Feb24 Sun (Confirmed)
Twickenham Bonsai Club Show
Twickenham School,
Percy Road, Whitton,
Twickenham, Middlesex. TW2 6JW.
Adm: tba. Times:1000-1600.hrs
Contact: Tony Ulatowski 07956.362743
Email: twickenhambonsaiclub@gmail.com
www.twbclub.uk

11Feb24 Sun (Confirmed)
Swindon Bonsai Society Winter Image Show
Grange Leisure Centre, Grange Drive,
Stratton St Margaret, Swindon,
Wiltshire. SN3 4JY.
Adm: £7. Accompanied under 16.yrs Free.
Times: 1000-1600.hrs.
Cafe refreshments card payment only.
Please visit Swindon website for further details
Contact: Paul Bowerbank 07982.401103
Email: paul1561@virginmedia.com
www.swindon-bonsai.co.uk

Supporting Clubs:

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

Supporting Traders:

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

17&18Feb24 Sat & Sun (Confirmed)
Trophy Show
Limburghal cv, jaarbeurslaan 6, B-3600 Genk,
Belgium
www.bonsaiassociation.be

25Feb24 Sun (Confirmed)
Doncaster Bonsai Experience
& The Spring Bonsai Exhibition
Markham Grange Nursery,
Longlands Lane, Brodsworth,
Doncaster, South Yorkshire. DN5 7XB.
Adm: Free. Times: 0900-1500.hrs
Contact: John Skill 07818.110978
Email: doncasterbonsai@gmail.com

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 UKBA website
www.ukbonsaiassoc.org/show-reports.html

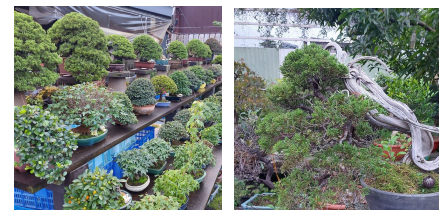
Trips Abroad

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

05-12 Nov23 Tokyo, Japan



22 Nov23 Taipei Bonsai Village, Taiwan



01Dec23 Washington D.C USA



Club Speaker Nights

If your club is holding a speaker night which is open to non-members please advise us of the details. thank you

07Feb24 Wed (1930-2230.hrs)

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

12Feb24 Mon (1900.hrs)

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

23Feb24 Fri (1930.hrs)

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

23Feb24 Fri (1915.hrs)

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

Notice Board

17Mar24 Sun (Confirmed)

Southend Bonsai Society Spring Show
Due to unforeseen circumstances this show originally marked on the diary as 21Apr24 (Provisional) has now been re-scheduled for the 17Mar24 and is now confirmed.
Ashingdon Memorial Hall,
Ashingdon Road, Rochford,
Essex. SS4 3HF.
Adm: £3. Times: 1000-1600.hrs
Ctc: Paul Schofield 07942.679688
Email: southendbonsaisociety@gmail.com

14Apr24 Expo Bonsai UK

The show is fast approaching and for those interested in exhibiting you need to act now as there are only 4 weeks until the close of submissions. To submit a tree for consideration to exhibit please ask for details at ebuk18@gmail.com. The show is aimed at mature, quality examples, in all sizes, displayed in an appropriate manner. Thank you.
Kind regards Steve Hale

19-21Jul25 Fri-Sun (Confirmed)

New to the event diary this month
UK Bonsai Association Display
At Hyper Japan Festival
Olympia London.
Hammersmith Road,

Hammersmith, London. W14 8UX.
Adm: tbc. Times: Fri 1200-2030.hrs
Sat: 0900-2030.hrs Sun:0900-1700.hrs
Contact: Russell Wheeler 07810.372377
Email: russboy23@gmail.com

Berkshire Bonsai Society

With immediate effect Jamie Ewing will be the main contact for Berkshire Bonsai Society.
Ctc: Jamie Ewing 07570.368175
Email: jamie1322@hotmail.co.uk
www.berkshirebonsai.co.uk

Bonsai Club International 2023

Vol 4 No4 Oct/Nov/Dec
Contact:www.bonsai-bci.com
Latest edition highlighting:
Chris Pazoles & Felix Laughlin of US talking about the North Carolina Arboretum n more.
George Haas of US reporting on the 37th Annual Bonsai Show Rohnert Park.
Budi Sulisty of Indonesia reporting on the BCI convention in Tangerrang, Indonesia.
Joe Grande of Canada highlights the journey of Dwarf Scots Pine.

Lin Chienhung of Taiwan highlights a garden in the wood carving kingdom of Taiwan.
Pierre Leloup of Canada crafting 'Quebec Islands'.
Aldo Marchese of Italy exploring suiseki, harmony in stone.
Tony Tickle of UK talking about the art of bonsai exhibitions and educating the public about the world of bonsai.

Bonsai Focus Magazine 2023 Nov/Dec 185/208

Contact:www.bonsaifocus.com
Latest edition highlighting:
Jonas Dupuich of US reporting on the 8th US National Bonsai Show.
Martin Diaz of Chile styling a Red Pine.
Takuya Suzuki of Japan styling a Taxus Cuspidata.
Rafael Torres of Mallorca gives an in depth interview.
Jerome Kellerhals of US gives a step by step guide to styling a weeping bonsai.
Bjorn Bjorholm of US restores a semi cascade Juniper.
Yukio Hirose of Japan works on a small Hinoki cypress.

Bonsai Kai

It's with sadness we have to report that perhaps the oldest bonsai club in the UK and reportedly Europe, Bonsai Kai has closed down, due to a lack of membership.

Cornwall Bonsai Society

Cornwall Bonsai Society is sad to announce the passing of two of our long-standing members. Barry Toghill and John Couch both will be sadly missed. Barrie was famous for his beautiful azaleas that lit up the room with colour, as did Barrie with his witty jokes, and beaming smile he always had. Barrie was the only member to ever receive a lifetime honourable membership of Cornwall Bonsai when he moved to Plymouth. It was always lovely to welcome him back on his rare visits back down to Cornwall.
John and his wife Nina were ones of the founding members of the Cornwall Bonsai society back in the 1980s.
John Couch, or as he will be fondly, remembered him as "JCB John" due to the fact that, when at work he would persuade other workers with a pasty to lift and save trees with

the aid of the JCB. These trees gave John the raw material to expertly work on through his bonsai life. John has created wonderful pieces of bonsai art, not only his understanding of the Cornish native species trees but also pots and stonework that complimented his trees.

John and Nina welcomed many people to their home over the years gleaned information in the early years from Ruth Stafford Jones, and the latter years passing on their wisdom to us all.
From all at the Cornwall Bonsai, we miss John and Barrie

Leicestershire Bonsai Club

With immediate effect Paul 'Olly' Olson will be the main contact for Leicestershire Bonsai Club and the club website address has also changed.
Ctc: Paul 'Olly' Olson 07563.283199
Email: paul.olson174@icloud.com
www.leicsbonsaiclub.wordpress.com

Swindon Bonsai Show 11Feb24

Following the very successful UKBA bonsai display at the Hyper Japan Festival last year organised by Russell Wheeler and Tim Back, contact was made with representatives of the Japan Embassy. It was suggested a meeting take place to explore possibilities of future collaborations. Ameila Williams kindly represented the UKBA at a joint meeting and two events have been planned.
Firstly, the intention is to have a special pre-recorded video presentation at the Swindon Bonsai show in the afternoon. The video will be made by Mr Ryuichi Kitadani a 4th Generation Bonsai Garden owner in Japan. He is willing to create a tailor made video covering subjects of our choice and answering any questions we may have. So if your attending the Swindon show and would like a certain subject covered or just a question answered by Mr Kitadani, please email your request to Ameila Williams asap. Email: wjaillema@gmail.com.
More details to follow in Feb24 bulletin.

Secondly, The possibilities of a bonsai display at the Japan Embassy to celebrate the Emperor's birthday on the 23Feb24.

UKBA Membership

Thanking you for your support, today 1Jan24 UKBA membership stands at a total of 2914, expanding daily

Monthly Tasks

Below is a list of bonsai tasks to be carried out during the month of January, it must be adapted to your localised conditions and is meant only as a general advisory list of tasks for the bonsai enthusiast.

Bonsai in January

Hopefully all your bonsai trees are being protected for the winter and here is a quick generic guide to bonsai in January.

Watering:

Your bonsai trees will still need watering but not as often as their growth rate has slowed right down so their water uptake has also slowed down.
At this time of year if your trees are still outside, they will be getting watered

naturally by the rainfall, morning dew and melting frosts. However, monitor the moisture level to ensure your bonsai trees are not water logged as this can cause roots to rot. If your bonsai trees are under cover check daily and water if required to keep the soil damp / moist but not soaking wet.

Any bonsai being kept indoors should be watered daily if required as they will be losing moisture due to the higher temperatures inside drying out the soil and the tropical species still tend to grow during the winter period inside. Ideal time to water is in the morning to allow the water time to dissipate and to reduce the surface water should the temperature cool down overnight or there is a frost.

Re-potting:

If the weather is mild re-potting can be undertaken but avoid early re-potting if you have no protection for the tree like a cold frame or green house if frosts are likely. Otherwise prepare for repotting by checking soil supplies and also that if you are looking to change the pot that you have the correct pot size to repot into.

Feeding:

Generally feeding in January is not required as broadleaves trees are dormant and conifers or evergreens have slowed down on growth during this period.

However, continue to lightly feed tropical trees that are kept indoors if they are still showing signs of growth to sustain them during this period.

Pruning:

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

Trimming:

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

Root pruning:

Carry out root pruning if you do start to re-pot now as part of the re-potting process and check for soil borne pests, root rot and other root problems and address if any issues are found.

Insects and pests:

Continue to check your bonsai trees over fully for pests, insects and diseases as some insects can over winter, or in your trees such as red spider mite, scale insect and if you have not applied a winter pesticide or removed unwanted pests before now it is a chance to do so. Pests are also likely if the weather is mild so worth checking to avoid disappointment in the spring when buds or leaves fail to flush due to pest attack.

Moss and weed control:

Hopefully you carried out pre winter preparation and addressed any weed and moss issues particularly around the trunks of bonsai trees prior to winter. If not this is again a good time to remove moss and weeds to clear the surface of the soil for improved moisture

movement as well as prevent bark rot from wet moss. You can use a range of techniques including a diluted vinegar application on the bark which you apply and then around a week of two later the moss removes more easily with a light brush action (tooth brush works well).

Wiring:

If wire is present on your bonsai tree check whether it is still serving a purpose and is taut and not digging into the bark causing wire marks and re-set if necessary or tighten.

Protection:

Continue to maintain winter protection in whatever form you use and check your trees daily for effects of frost or snow.

Assessment:

This is also a good time to photograph your bonsai trees and update their records for re-potting timings, feeding regimes, soil type etc as it is sometimes hard to keep track of what you do for each tree when you start increasing your collection. Keeping a photographic record does come in very useful over the years to see the trees development and your progress.

Interview

UKBA Interview With
John Trott



How did you get interested ?

I think as a kid my interest evolved when I used to gaze in awe at a large garden, but not an everyday regular garden, it was laid out as a traditional Japanese garden. I was later in life to find out it was designed and laid out in the early 1900's by a genuine Japanese designer. There were Bonsai, Japanese maples with fantastic coloration and Niwaki styled pine trees around the garden which I thought were fantastic.....the seeds were sown in my mind!

What was your first bonsai?

My first attempt to try my hand at growing a bonsai was a little ash tree which I took from my Mother's garden when I was 15 back in 1969. That small little ash survived with me until 2021 when it sadly passed away possibly due to the ash disease which ravaged our locality as well as most of the country.

How did you learn more about bonsai?

When visiting the Royal Bath And West Show near Shepton Mallet I made a 'bee line' to the flower marquee where I gazed upon a display of bonsai owned by Anne Swinton....whom I was later in life to get to know very well. I asked Anne "how do you grow bonsai?" only to be told..... "its a closely guarded secret and cannot tell you!" What was that all about! So, my early years were basically self taught as there was little in the way of books to read. Just one book in my local public library. Were they really grown in half a grapefruit skin and trim the roots off as they came through holes in the peel? As it was shown on the Blue Peter children's programme, I had to try it.

The first 10 years or so was a slow affair as my teens took up time with playing football, cricket, darts and badminton, travelling the country to watch football and Somerset CCC and sampling the ales as many do. When I settled down with Anne and we got our own house my interest in bonsai grew as did our 2 children who entered my life.

How and who helped you expand your bonsai knowledge?

I was now a subscribing member of the National bonsai society based in Southport.....at last information! I joined the Bristol Bonsai Society who were one of the largest clubs in the country at that time with a top figure of 274 members (including corresponding members). One person who helped in my learning curve and I owe so much to was Dan Barton, who after all these years is still a very close friend of mine and incidentally xxx one of the founder members of the Bristol bonsai society.



John, Dan, Cecelia and Mark

At the Bristol club a few years later I also met up with a person who became my bonsai buddy.... the late Ray Fordham. Most Sundays we would meet up and travel to what nurseries were available or spend the days working on our own development of bonsai. At that time one of the top bonsai nurseries was Bromage And Young in Surrey, I always remember the Chinese junipers laid out on the lawn and priced with a yardstick £1 per inch.....you wouldn't get that nowadays!

I was glad to have visited and learned in workshops etc. from the likes of Peter Adams, Ruth Stafford-Jones, Harry Tomlinson, John Naka and many more whom I apologise to for not naming as I've had so many inspirational friends during my lifetime in bonsai.

The learning curve continues with my interest in horticulture expanding. Learning how to propagate plants by cuttings and grafting for example. My philosophy was to learn how the trees grow and use that for the welfare of bonsai development. You need to care and develop your bonsai in order for them to survive and flourish.

Even with today's knowledge available via the internet I cannot emphasize enough, joining a club meeting new people who are all interested in one common goal.....that is the learning of the art of bonsai.

Yes! I did say art.

Simply owning a tree or plant is not art, but when you go through the process of styling and development to end up with a finished miniature of a full-sized tree that is more of an art form. Art can be a definition worth looking up in a dictionary for those who

argue bonsai is not art but simply horticultural practices. Most definitely it is an art form as recognised in most countries around the world. Xxx A bonsai tree may have a beginning but it is never finished, as a living entity it is always evolving through the 'Annals of time'

What was your early working career?

My working life was in the shoe making trade as an engineer and training instructor. As the years passed my skills at training evolved through coaching both children and adults in cricket, football and Badminton for which I held national qualifications.

How did your business get set up?

As my talks and demonstrations to local garden clubs etc expanded my next move was to teach the art of bonsai through adult education classes at nearby schools and colleges. It made for long days, working in industry then working 3/4 evenings a week. It was within the education structure that I gained my City and Guild certification to teach adults. Luckily enough, or was it not lucky, the training was paid for by the company whom I worked for setting up retraining schemes to help redundant workers with the impending factory closures. In the mid eighties I started planting hundreds of trees in what was originally secluded allotments hidden away from prying eyes. Eight allotments came under my control which gave me the best part of an acre to field grow my potential bonsai stock. My investment for the future when my full-time industry job might come to an end.

This was the era of the change of direction!!!! I set up my own business and called it the Mendip Bonsai Studio in 1994, operating part time at weekends and running educational bonsai learning workshops alongside selling bonsai.

At this time I also made the decision to start exhibiting and trading at Horticultural shows. I had to blame my good friend the late Harry Tomlinson who had exhibited for many years including at my local show. We would get together over a few beers in the evenings to chat and get rather intoxicated in the 'stockmans' tent, normally a rowdy atmosphere where the young farmers would let off steam to put it mildly as the odd brawl would break out. It was time to leave to avoid the fracas.

Another person who helped with my transition into exhibiting was the late Cal Humphries, lovely guy to get on with, with a broad Barnsley accent and a vast knowledge of both bonsai and exhibiting.

1999 was when I decided to go full time, moved house more into the country to a place with plenty of land, this was split into 2 sections.....his and hers. Hers, or should I say Anne's, is devoted to vegetables and fruit trees along with ponds for fish and wildlife. For a period of some 8/9 years I was travelling the country, at horticultural shows as an exhibitor and trader, plus trading and exhibiting at pure bonsai shows....it was hard work as I was attending up to 25-30 shows a year.

In around 2001 I called the RHS to enquire regarding my desire to exhibit at the world famous Chelsea Flower Show.

The show manager at that time asked had I exhibited at the Halls in Vincent square or any other RHS shows? No! was my reply.

She responded by telling me that it was basically a case of 'dead man's shoes' So I replied with a quick answer! "Can you tell me when the next exhibitor pops his clogs?" or should I say her clogs. But that year some long standing RHS exhibitors who saw my displays at the non-RHS shows said they would put in a good word for me as they were on RHS show committees. The following year I was in the RHS Wisley show and gained a prestigious gold medal at the first attempt. We were over the moon yes...yes! Smiles all round



John & Anne at Wisley - 1st RHS display & Gold Medal 2002

The following year was a case of down to earth with a bump gaining a silver medal at the Chelsea flower show.

At that time there were 8 or 9 bonsai exhibits ... how the times have changed. But it was still in the heydays of bonsai being so popular. It was several years before I gained my first Chelsea gold medal in 2007.

I went on to gain a record breaking 94 RHS medals for exhibiting bonsai before hanging up my boots as one would say in 2019. This ended a run of 70 consecutive gold medals. The Covid 19 basically made my mind up for me. Time to change.

Now was the time to concentrate on the educational side of teaching bonsai to students of all levels. Even now I still get people attending my workshops who started attending over 35 years ago.....it's great to see how their trees have advanced and matured. I still attend pure bonsai shows as a trader and now and again exhibiting a tree or two.

For the last 17/18 years we have been selling a vast range of small bronze figurines to accompany bonsai or purely as collectibles. These make up a large part of the business. This was made possible by meeting up with a bronze sculptor named Dave Meredith who became a close friend back about 18 years ago. Your involvement with clubs and shows?

Over the years I've been an active member the Bristol Bonsai society Have been a committee member for years until standing down this year. A thriving club going from strength to strength.

I was Vice Chairman of the Association of British Bonsai Artists until it was disbanded some years ago.

I also had involvement with the Joy of Bonsai, the international Magical Bonsai Accents show and many others.

I also hold the position of being president of the Somerset Bonsai Society based in Taunton. Very much a thriving club and been pleased to be at the helm for at least 15-18 years seeing it develop into a great club with a forward looking committee and healthy membership.

What's your favourite species for bonsai?

There cannot be many species that I have not tried training as bonsai.

Bonsai can be very addictive and challenging as a hobby and it gets worse when it becomes your profession. If I had to pick several species I've loved growing they would probably be Japanese Maples,



Deshojo Maple

Trident Maple

Chinese juniper, Black pine and Satsuki Azalea to name a few.

The one species that I would love to have in my possession is a variety of Hibiscus that I saw at shows whilst travelling in Taiwan. It can develop some of the finest ramification that I've ever come across, these trees are actually given a total leaf pruning just before they are exhibited.



Hibiscus

Countries visited for bonsai shows and work?

Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam, Belgium, Holland, Cyprus, Sweden and Ireland.

For quality of the shows Japan, Taiwan and Belgium are highly recommended.

Who are your favourite potters?

I always felt when I first started exhibiting at shows a long time ago that the pots were very much of a 'sameness' especially the colour, or should I say lack of colour.....normally they would be most shades of Brown or Grey.

So, I wanted to add more interest to my displays and colour played a big part when choosing a pot for a tree. This was the time I was introducing Dan Barton pots to the world of RHS bonsai displays.

I was also responsible for getting the RHS to accept that accent plants and other complimentary items such as bronzes should accompany a bonsai, similar to the way they exhibit in shows in Japan. It was hard work encouraging the judging structure to change. It probably helped when I gave a training seminar to about 75 RHS judges about 15 years ago.

Although I have good interest in Japanese and Chinese potters I have always felt that we have a great range of UK potters and should support them.

I have a vast collection of both pots and accent pots by Dan Barton and not forgetting Cecelia.

Also many pots by John Pitt, Gordon Duffett and a big collection from Thor Holvila from Sweden.

I am also very pleased to see how Graham Simpson (Dragonfly pots) has progressed and I am now both potting trees into his pots and also selling them. Check out his

'industrial or steam-punk pots'.....mind blowing.



Pot by Graham Simpson

Judging bonsai?

Over the last 25 years or so I have had the pleasure of judging at many shows across the country together with some critique work. In 2021 I was approached by the Royal Horticultural Society to see if I would consider joining their team of judges. I accepted the invitation. After undergoing training and assessments I became a full judge for the RHS with specialist subject being bonsai in 2022. I can also be called upon to judge ferns, hostas, alpines, Acers and other trees and shrubs within the 'woody plants' section. These are plant genres that I have been involved with most of my life. Please help to Keep the knowledge of bonsai expanding but never forgotten. And to keep gaining more enthusiasts around the world. Cheers
John Trott



Collectables

Pin Badges

Please check out the pin badge section under collectables on the website, if you have any badges we have not listed, please send us an image of the badge and we will add it to the section. Thank you

This month we are highlighting pin badges of the World.

Badges



Bonsai Association Belgium
Country - Belgium
Image supplied by David Swinhard



Notter Bonsai
Country - Switzerland
Image supplied by Jim Gould



Bonsai Northwest Incorporated
Country - Australia
Image supplied by Keith Hartley



Tokonoma Bonsai Coffs Harbour
Country - Australia
Image supplied by Keith Hartley

Books

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



Jerome Kellerhals
& Mariannjely Marvel
Free Style Bonsai
Published: 2022
ISBN: 9780760371978
Image supplied by Steven Reddington

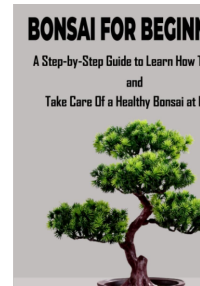


Ron Saki
Bonsai For beginners
Published: 2022
ISBN: 9781915577009
Image supplied by Steven Reddington



Megan Bryant

Ultimate Guide Bonsai & Penjing
Published: 2023
ISBN: 9798390785607
Image supplied by Steven Reddington



Richard D Reese
Bonsai For Beginners
Published: 2023
ISBN: 9798376555750
Image supplied by Steven Reddington

UKBA Quiz Jan24

Family Quiz

Many of the trees commonly used for bonsai are in the same family. Can you put the trees with their family. There are 20 trees and 5 families. (Hint: Not all the family groups are the same size).

- | | | |
|--------|----------------|-------------|
| Ash | Beech | Blackthorn |
| Cedar | Crab apple | Cryptomeria |
| Fir | Hemlock | Larch |
| Oak | Pear | Pine |
| Privet | Quince | Redwood |
| Rowan | Southern Beech | |
| Spruce | Swamp Cyress | Yew |

Family

- Fragaceae
- Oleaceae
- Pinaceae
- Rosaceae
- Taxodiaceas

Answers to Dec23 Quiz

Dec23 Quiz Answers

M	Y	O	E	N	S	X	A	J
J	E	A	Y	O	X	N	M	S
N	X	S	J	A	M	O	E	Y
O	M	N	X	J	E	S	Y	A
Y	A	X	S	M	O	E	J	N
S	J	E	A	Y	N	M	O	X
E	N	Y	O	X	A	J	S	M
X	O	J	M	S	Y	A	N	E
A	S	M	N	E	J	Y	X	O



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