

UK Bonsai Association

www.ukbonsaiassoc.org



Bulletin Jun24

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Welcome to this month's Bulletin.

The month of May is a mile stone for the UK Bonsai Association, we can report that our membership has now surpassed 3000, an achievement the whole bonsai community can be proud of. The bulletin that reaches these 3000 members directly and many others indirectly through third parties, connects us all. A big thank you must go out there to everyone who sends information in to be included on the website or in the bulletin, its this information that makes the bulletin worth reading. In this ever changing world there are many forms of communication and new ones coming along all the time, but unfortunately the more splintered these get, the harder it is to see everything going on unless you spend your whole life scrolling the internet. What the bulletin provides is one simple place to go where all the relevant information has been brought together by fellow enthusiasts and can be viewed in one easy go. So again, a big thank you to all contributors, please keep the information coming and lets move forward together and grow the bonsai community even more.

Sadly this last month saw two events being cancelled. The first event cancelled was Leicestershire Bonsai Club who were intending to put on a display at Burbage Common Open Day on the 19May24 the site was deemed to wet to hold the event. The second event cancelled was the UK Bonsai Association intended display at the ARB Show 24 located at Westonbirt the National Arboretum over the 17&18May24 weekend. The reasons for this cancellation were less obvious. They were related to not being able to display our bonsai trees as we did not have plant passports for them as we are amateur hobbyists and therefore could not meet the live plant bio-security requirements of Westonbirt Arboretum run by The Forestry Commission. This obviously gives food for thought, who

knows where this one goes, will we all need plant passports in the future?

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 04Jun24 at 1900.hrs.

Bonsai Events

Jun23 & Jul23

01Jun24 Sat (Confirmed)
Milton Keynes Bonsai Society Show
Milton Keynes Central Library, 555 Silbury Blvd, Milton Keynes. MK9 3HL.
Adm: Free. Times: 1000-1530.hrs
Contact: Simon Roberts
Email: simon.roberts26@btopenworld.com
www.mkbonsaisociety.co.uk
Supporting Clubs:
Bedfordshire Bonsai Society
Mid-Herts Bonsai Society
Middlesex Bonsai Society
Milton Keynes Bonsai Society
Northampton Bonsai Society
Local Ikebana Club
Supporting Traders:
Greenwood Bonsai Nursery

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

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

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

Additional supporting event
Fobbs New Talent Competition 2024
(See notices 09Jun24 for more information)

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

09Jun24 Sun (Confirmed)
Midland Bonsai Society Show
Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Westbourne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham. B15 3TR.

Adm: tba. Times: 1030-1600.hrs.
Contact: Richard Gilkes 07803.593024
Email: ragilkes@blueyonder.co.uk
www.midlandbonsai.org
Supporting Club: Redditch Bonsai Society
Supporting Traders:
David Cheshire Bonsai, Funky Fish Ceramics

15Jun24 Sat (Confirmed)
Berkshire Bonsai Society Display
At Winnersh Summer Fete,
Bearwood Recreational Park, Mole Road, Sindlesham, Wokingham, Berkshire. RG41 5DJ.
Adm: Free. Times: 1300-1630.hrs
Ctc: Keith Winter 07802.214150
Email: berkshirebonsaiclub@gmail.com
www.berkshirebonsai.co.uk

15Jun24 Sat (Confirmed)
Middlesex Bonsai Society Summer Show
South Harrow Methodist Church,
Walton Avenue, South Harrow,
Middlesex. HA2 8QU.
Adm: Free. Times:1000-1300.hrs.
Ctc: Mark Moreland 07850.771201
Email: markmoreland@live.co.uk
www.middlesexbonsaisociety.weebly.com

15&16Jun24 Sat & Sun (Confirmed)
Mid-Herts Bonsai Society Show
Kingsbury Barn, Branch Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire. AL3 4SE.
Adm: Free. Times: 1100-1700.hrs
Contact: Geoff Conybears 07396.732817
Email: info@midhertsbonsaiclub.co.uk
www.midhertsbonsaiclub.co.uk

16Jun24 Sun (Confirmed)
North East Lincolnshire & Humberside
Bonsai Show
Darby & Joan Hall, 58 Finkle Street,
Cottingham. HU16 4AZ.
Adm: £1.50 -16s Free. 1000-1500.hrs
Ctc: Ian Butland 07963.470696
nelbs.chairman@virginmedia.com
www.nelincsbonsai.org.uk

23Jun24 Sun (Provisional)
Blackmore Vale Bonsai Group Show
Charlton Remembrance Hall,
Charlton, Shaftsbury, Dorset. SP7 0PL.
Adm: £3.00. Times: 1100-1500.hrs
Geoff 07837.781744 & 01747.853475
Email: m5eay.geoff@btinternet.com
www.blackmorevalebonsaigroup.com

23Jun24 Sun (Confirmed)
Bedfordshire Bonsai Society Show
Stockwood Park Discovery Centre,
London Road, Luton, Bedfordshire. LU1 4LX.
Ctc: Richard Gaiger 07745.507318
Email: r.gaiger@ntlworld.com
www.bedfordshirebonsaisociety.weebly.com

30Jun24 Sun (Moved to 02Jun24)
Satsuki Azalea Bonsai Show
Organised by Chiltern Bonsai Society
Liston Hall, Chapel Street, Marlow,
Buckinghamshire, SL7 1DD
Adm: tbc. Times: 1000-1600.hrs.
Contact: Amnon Paldi 07801.183316
Email: amnonp@icloud.com

07Jul24 Sun (Confirmed)
Bristol Bonsai Society Show
Failand Village Hall, Oxhouse Lane,
Failand, Somerset. BS8 3TS.
Adm: £5. Under 16s Free. 1000-
1600.hrsCtc: Mark Wood 07964.249279

Email: bbs-site@outlook.com
www.bristolbonsaisociety.wordpress.com

14Jul24 Sun (Confirmed)
Surrey Heath Bonsai Show
Chobham Village Hall,
Station Road, Chobham, Surrey. GU24 8AQ.
Adm: Free. Times: 1000-1600.hrs.
Contact: Chris Rhodes 01276.20893
Email: rhodes163@googlemail.com
www.surreyheathbonsai.org.uk

19-21Jul24 Fri-Sun (Confirmed)
Accrington & District Bonsai Society Display
At Royal Lancashire Show,
Salesbury Hall, Salesbury Hall Road,
Ribchester, Lancashire. PR3 3XR.
Adm: tba. Times: 0930-1700.hrs.
Ctc: Diane Kennedy 07799.567692
Email: dianestardis@icloud.com
www.accringtonbonsai.co.uk

19-21Jul24 Fri-Sun (Confirmed)
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

20Jul24 Sat (Confirmed)
Surrey Heath Bonsai Society Display
At Wood Street Village Show,
Village Green, Wood Street, Guildford, Surrey. GU3 3EU
Adm: Free. Times: 1200-1700.hrs.
Contact: Chris Rhodes 01276.20893
Email: rhodes163@googlemail.com
www.surreyheathbonsai.org.uk

20-21Jul24 Sat & Sun (Confirmed)
Chichester Bonsai Exhibition
Manor Nursery, Pagham Road,
Runcton, Chichester. PO20 1LJ.
Adm: Free. 0900-1700 & 1000-1600.hrs.
Ctc: Liz Pantan 01798.865551/07368.327244
Email: lizpanton5@gmail.com
www.chichesterbonsai.uk
Supporting Trader: Collette's Bonsai

21Jul24 Sun (Confirmed)
Bonsai Fair
Penkridge Markets, Clovelly, Pinfold Lane,
Penkridge, Staffordshire. ST19 5AP.
Adm: Free. Times:1000-1600.hrs
Contact: Mark Akins
Email: penkridge@beechfieldbonsai.co.uk

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

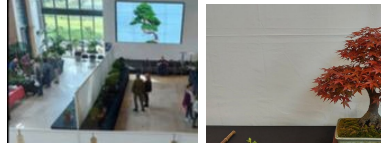
Bonsai Event Reports UK

To read the full reports with photos on the events listed below please visit the UKBA website: www.ukbonsaiassoc.org

04&05May24 Sat & Sun
Accrington & District Bonsai Society Display
At Barton Grange Garden Centre,



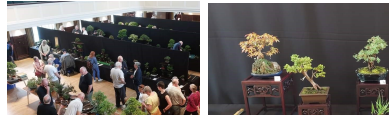
04&05May24 Sat & Sun
Sutton Bonsai Society Show
At Wisley Gardens, Wisley Lane,



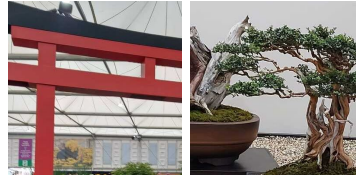
11&12May24 Sat & Sun
Greenwood Spring Bonsai Bash



12May24 Sat
Ayrshire Bonsai Club Open Exhibition
At Troon Concert Hall



21-25May24 Tue-Sat
Chelsea Flower Show



25May24 Sat
North London Bonsai Group Show
At Capel Manor, Bullsmoor Lane,



26May24 Sun
Kent Bonsai Late Spring Show



26May24 Sun
Scottish Bonsai Association National Exhibition
At Strathbrock Centre



27May24 Mon
Accrington & District Bonsai Society
Display At Great Harwood Show



29&30May24 Wed-Thu
Ipswich Bonsai Society Display
At The Suffolk Show



Trips Abroad

07-19Apr24
Graham Morris - Japan



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

Club Talks

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

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

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

21Jun24 Fri (1930-2200.hrs)
Talk by Mark Moreland
Sub: Propagating & Miniature Bonsai.
Southeast Bonsai Society
Ashingdon Memorial Hall, Ashingdon
Road, Rochford, Essex. SS4 3HF.
Ctc: Paul Schofield 07942.679688
southendbonsaisociety@gmail.com

24Jun24 Mon (1930-2200.hrs)
Talk by Dan Barton
Subject: Aesthetics Of Bonsai Design

Notice Board

Bristol Bonsai Society
Failand Village Hall, Oxhouse Lane,
Failand, Somerset. BS8 3TS.
Ctc: Nigel Turner 07918.602306
Email: bbs-site@outlook.com

26Jun24 Wed (1930-2200.hrs)
Talk by Tony Remington
Subject: Bonsai Pot Demo
Derby & District Bonsai Association
Grange Hall Community Centre, Park Lane,
Littleover, Derbyshire. DE23 6FX.
Ctc: Tony Lloyd 01332.679584
Email: tloyd98@gmail.com

04Jul24 Thu (1915.hrs)
Talk by Caroline (Caz) Scott
Subject: Yews
Aka Matsu School Of Bonsai
Seaton Community Centre, Seaton,
Seaham, Co Durham. SR7 0NA.
Ctc: Graham Walker 01287.637734
Email: graham.walker11@ntlworld.com

04Jul24 Thu (1930.hrs)
Zoom Meeting
Talk by Nigel Saunders
Subject: The Bonsai Zone
Midlands Bonsai Society
Moseley Cricket Club, 105 Streetbrook Road,
Shirley, Solihull, Midlands. B90 3PE.
Ctc: Richard Gilkes 07803.593024
Email: ragilkes@blueyonder.co.uk

04Jul24 Thu (1900-2200.hrs)
Talk by Corin Tomlinson
Subject: tbc.
Northamptonshire Bonsai Society
Weston Favell Parish Hall, Booth Lane South,
Weston Favell, Northamptonshire. NN3 3NS.
Ctc: Richard Boyles 07768.636715
secretary@northamptonshirebonsaisociety.co.uk

10Jul24 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

12Jul24 Fri (1900-2200.hrs)
Talk by Peter Warren
Subject: Summer Pruning
Ipswich Bonsai Society
Kesgrave Community Hall, Twelve Acre
Approach, Kesgrave, Suffolk. IP5 1JF.
Ctc: Dave Fryer 07749.801297
Email: daveafryer@aol.com

13Jul24 Sat (1400-1600.hrs)
Talk by Graham Potter
Subject: Pines
North London Bonsai Group
Capel Manor College, Bullsmoor Lane,
Enfield, Middlesex. EN1 4RQ.
Ctc: Bob McGregor 07903.710509
Email: dismcg@hotmail.co.uk

26Jul24 Fri (1915-2145.hrs)
Talk by Caroline (Caz) Scott
Subject: Pines
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

03Jun24 Mon (1900.hrs)
If you live in the Northumberland area please
attend the first meeting of the
Northumberland Bonsai Society at
Stannington Village Hall, Main Street,
Stannington, Northumberland. NE61 6EL.
Further details please contact Paul Chester
07812.727022 or Email:
paulchester@hotmail.co.uk

09Jun24 Sun
New Talent Competition (NTC) - 2024
The NTC for 2024 will be held at the 'Bonsai by
the Sea' bonsai show in Exmouth, Devon.
The competition will be on Sunday, 9 June
2024, starting at midday. The length of the
competition to be 3 hours.
There will be a plaque for winning the British
round to be kept by the winner. The winner of
this, the British heat of the NTC, will normally
become the British entrant for the European
Bonsai Association NTC competition. This will
be held in Reus, 100 km south of Barcelona,
Spain on the weekend of 23&24Nov24. The
judging of the trees in the British round will be
done by two highly competent and widely
renowned bonsai judges. The judging will be
done 'blind' and individually, with the judges
consulting together afterwards to assess their
combined thoughts to establish the winner. The
overall administration will be conducted by
FoBBS officials. The winner may keep their
finished tree. The others may purchase their
tree at cost from FoBBS. Table and tree
allocation will be done by putting out the trees
randomly on the tables, then a single draw will
be used to allocate trees and tables. The
competitors are from Akamatsu Bonsai,
Glynderi, Somerset Bonsai Society and two
from Staverton Bonsai Society.

21Jul24 Sun (Confirmed)
New to the events diary this month
Bonsai Fair
Penkridge Markets, Clovelly, Pinfold Lane,
Penkridge, Staffordshire. ST19 5AP.
If you want a trader's pitch at this event,
please contact asap: Mark Akins
penkridge@beechfieldbonsai.co.uk

04Aug24 Sun
Staverton Group Bonsai Boot Sale
Opp Long River Farm, New Town Road,
Westbury, Wiltshire. BA13 3ED.
If you want a trader's pitch at this event this is
your last reminder.
please contact asap: Tony Oswin 07776.338899
Email: Rob - oakfieldbonsai@aol.com
or Chris - jeffreyschris@hotmail.com

07Sep24 Sat (Confirmed)
New to the events diary this month
8 Bonsai Journeys At Herons Bonsai
Wiremill Lane, Newchapel,
Nr Lingfield, Surrey. RH76HJ
Limited to 80 People only.
Pre-booked tickets only.
Adm: £50. Times: 1000-2000.hrs.
Ctc: Peter Chan 01342.832657
Email: sales@herons.co.uk
Talks & Demonstrations by:
Kevin Willson Caroline Scott
Steve Mckee Russ Farley
Graham Potter Lee Fincham
Richard Chambers Warren Radford

02Feb25 Sun (Confirmed)
New to the events diary this month
Twickenham Bonsai Club Winter Show
St Richard Reynolds Catholic College,
Clifden Road, Twickenham. TW1 4LT.
Adm: £5. Half price after 1400.hrs.
Times:1000-1600.hrs
Contact: Tina Todd 07801.582553
Email: toddyt1@hotmail.co.uk
www.twbclub.uk

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

29Jun25 Sun (Confirmed)
New to the events diary this month
Twickenham Bonsai Club Summer Show
St Richard Reynolds Catholic College,
Clifden Road, Twickenham. TW1 4LT.
Adm: £5. Half price after 1400.hrs.
Times:1000-1600.hrs
Contact: Tina Todd 07801.582553
Email: toddyt1@hotmail.co.uk
www.twbclub.uk

Bonsai Club International 2024
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Contact:www.bonsai-bci.com
Latest edition highlighting:
Min Hsuan Lo and his son Andrew Lo of
Taiwan celebrate the journey of a Pitanga.
Herbert Obermayer of Germany reports
on the tress at the 2024 Trophy Show.
Gudrun Benz of Germany reports on the
Suseki at the 2024 Trophy Show.
Herbert Aigner of Austria talks
Yamadori , exploring alpine bonsai and
the art of air-layering.
Grey Herrera Vila of Cuba talks about
telling stories with an image.
Maurizio Lissolo and Massimo Bandera
of Italy talking about a a very old
Juniperus chinensis called Geisha and its
journey.
Tony Tickle of the UK talking about
unveiling the artistic essence of bonsai.
Gabriele Sbaraimi of Italytalking about
the birst, growth and activities of the
Arcobonsai Club.
Massimo Bandera of Italy

Bonsai Focus Magazine 2024 May/Jun
188/211
Contact:www.bonsaifocus.com
Latest edition highlighting:
Francois Jeker of France restores an old
boxwood.
Luca Tamburell of Switzerland talks
about his journey from culinary chef to
bonsai artist.
Jarek Lenarczyk of Poland talks about
his bonsai passion.
Bruno Wijman of Netherlands shows
how simple material can give great
results.
Report on the UBE Show in Aranjuez in
Spain.

International Saikei Association

We would like to confirm the ISA will be displaying at the Surrey Heath Bonsai Show on Sunday the 14Jul24 at Chobham Village Hall, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey. GU24 8AQ. Adm: Free. Times: 1000-1600.hrs. Contact: David Penny Email: david.penny@saikei.org

Bonsai Myths is available on the UKBA's website to download

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
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

Hérons Bonsai

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

Mendip Bonsai Studio Workshops

Location: Somerset Area.
Ctc: John Trott. 07711.205806.
Email: john@mendipbonsai.co.uk
www.mendipbonsai.co.uk

John Hanby Bonsai

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

Monthly Tasks

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

We are now entering early summer and your trees should be in full leaf and enjoying the warmer weather and long hours of daylight. Here is a quick generic guide to bonsai in June but for individual species you may need to

adjust the guidance as well as for the developmental stage your bonsai trees are at.

Watering:

Continue to check your trees daily and water as required and you will have noticed they will be starting to take up more water and dry out quicker. This is now the time to really increase your watering with the leaves fully out and hardened off. Water in the mornings ideally and if necessary water more than once a day.

Re-potting:

None required unless emergency repotting required where the pot is damaged or there is a pest concern or drainage issue. Try not to damage the roots during an emergency repot and just place the tree in another pot of the same size or larger for the time being until the correct repotting season without root pruning or disturbance.

Feeding:

This is the time to start feeding much more regularly and heavily while the trees are actively growing. Organic feeds are preferable to chemical feeds including products like liquid seaweed and this can be fed daily as part of the watering regime or less often depending on the stage of development of the tree.

Ideal feeding at this time is liquid feed as the watering regime has picked up and you can feed with each watering, and the general rule is little and often.

Pruning:

This is the time to prune back all excessive growth on deciduous trees and start to work on removing the larger leaves on a regular basis in preference of retaining the smaller leaves forming after the larger leaves have been removed.

It is also a good time to carry out a full or partial defoliation of broadleaved trees but only if the tree is healthy enough. Ensure that if you do a full defoliation that you place the tree in a more shaded position rather than in full sun following a full defoliation.

Trimming:

Now that the leaves are present continue to maintain the shape through regular trimming and remove the terminal shoot in some species to aid with creating a more compact form. Continue to prune tropical trees to maintain their shape and trim the new shoots. Leaf cutting is also applicable for some species like maples but ensure that they are vigorous and healthy before you carry out leaf cutting and it may be more suitable to do a section of % at anyone time.

Root pruning:

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

Insects and pests:

Check for the newly emerging bugs and pests like green and black fly, red spider mite, scale insect, mealy bug as well as vine weevil beetles. With the onset of warmer weather insect pests can start to emerge and are more likely to appear on the new shoots and leaves. Watch out for the onset of mildew and prune out any damaged leaves or treat any infestations if found. Spray with insecticide as required or once a month for pest prevention using products like SB Invigorator. Methylated spirits cotton buds are an effective method of removing scale insects from branches.

Moss and weed control:

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

Wiring:

Wiring can be started on some of the larger branches if the tree has been defoliated but otherwise it is not a good time to wire as the process can damage the foliage.

Protection:

Winter and frost protection should no longer be required but shade and wind protection may be necessary to avoid leaf scorch or wind burn of the new leaves.

Assessment:

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

Tools:

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

Display areas:

If you have trees out in display areas check that they are not drying out or getting too much sun and ensure they have shade if required as the temperatures during the day currently are fairly hot.

Also check for wind protection and stability of trees

Propagation:

This is the time to take conifer cuttings. This is also a good time to take softwood cuttings from this years new growth.

Interview

UKBA Interview With Amnon Paldi



How did you get started?

I come from a gardening family, my father was a landscape architect and my mother was a gardener. From a young age I was surrounded by plants and trees.

As a teenager and as a university student I liked to paint and make statues and structures in metal and wood. Naturally as I entered the 'real world', started working and welcoming new members to the family, art took a back seat.

At the end of 1990 I started my own business and not long after that needed an activity to relax my mind. I looked at bonsai but was put off by the rigidity of the Japanese approach to the practice. I started reading about bonsai and discovered that as long as you adhered to the main principles you could have some freedom.



Maple deshojo

How did you learn about bonsai ?

After reading a few books, some did not make any sense to me as a novice, I decided that I really needed to talk to bonsai people, and watch them. This is when I joined The Chiltern Bonsai Society. Talking and watching people with many years experience helped me to begin to understand what bonsai is all about.

Do you consider Bonsai an art form?

For me bonsai is an art, primarily because it involves taking an object, in this case a tree, and improving the visual appearance of the tree. But it does not end there. You can further enhance the beauty of the tree with placing the tree in a pot. In a bonsai show you can further enhance the beauty of the tree by placing it on a stand and adding a scroll and an accent plant. Combining all these elements is not straight forward and requires many years of study.

Do you have a favourite species or size?

When I started, like, I would say most if not all bonsai enthusiasts, I had all varieties of trees. Maybe it is a man's problem, my trees were big. With time and I suppose age, we all tend to reduce the size of the trees. I still have few 'MNM' aka 'move no more' due to their size, but I have few shohin and mame. As for species, my main collection is composed of Satsuki Azaleas and a few maples. As I discover more about Satsuki Azaleas I encouraged my club to have a Satsuki Azalea Show, open to all, within the club's annual show.



Azalea

Do you have a favourite bonsai?

My favourite bonsai will vary depending in the main on the seasons. I like my Satsuki Azalea for example to have an interesting bonsai form. My Satsuki Azaleas therefore will be nice to look at throughout the year and not only when flowering. I love the deciduous bonsai in winter when they show their beautiful structure.

Do you have a favourite potter?

I love simple lines and colours to compliment the bonsai. However, as we evolve in the Western World with 'our' understanding of 'our bonsai' I have experimented with pots from Tommy Butterworth for shohin and mame. I think the quality of UK made bonsai pots has increased tremendously. The other advantage of UK pots and potters is that we can

order a pot in the right size, shape and colour to enhance our bonsai.



Pyracantha in Tommy Butterworth pot

What mistakes have you made?

I suppose my two big mistakes were having too many trees and not having the time to look after all of them. My second mistake was having too many varieties of bonsai, each with its own particularities. Today I am older and hopefully wiser. I have around 26 bonsai trees, mostly Satsuki Azaleas and maples, and a few shohin and mame.



MNM Korean Hornbeam

Have you experienced bonsai abroad?

I always found it interesting to see how bonsai enthusiasts in different countries have different visions on species, style and pots. Naturally their vision is greatly influenced by their environment, landscape and traditions. I have been to shows in Belgium, Germany, France and Italy and naturally Japan. I also exhibited in a few of these shows, not bonsai which now is virtually impossible, but suiseki which are much easier to transport.

Can you recommend one or two bonsai books?

When I started I had a few books and copies of Bonsai Today, the latter I still find useful. However, the biggest problem was understanding what is said and 'translating' the information to the conditions in England. This is still true today to the fantastic resource of YouTube.



Trident maple

What advice would you offer to newcomers?

The advice I give to newcomers joining our club is to start with few trees and not rush and get too many trees. I also recommend to start with trees you see in hedges. The trees in a hedgerow are resilient to the elements and therefore more forgiving. Finally I tell newcomers to not get despondent looking at the trees of long standing bonsai enthusiasts working on beautiful

specimens, reminding them that we all started with zero knowledge.

What is your favourite bonsai show?

My favourite bonsai show is Heathrow Bonsai Show. Maybe because I was there from the beginning and saw it grow. I like the spirit of the people at Heathrow Bonsai Show, grass root bonsai, enthusiastic whatever their level is, and sharing their passion.

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

My only disappointment most bonsai enthusiasts don't like to travel very far and are reluctant to make the effort and support events, local or national.

Do you have any other interests or hobbies?

In addition to bonsai my other hobby is suiseki. At first, I did not understand what the fuss was all about. However, after a few trips looking for stones in Italy and learning how to make the daiza I began to better understand suiseki. Today I mainly collect Japanese and European suiseki. Unfortunately it is rare to find British suiseki, although I have found a few.



Suiseki

What is it you enjoy most about bonsai?

For me bonsai is a combination of nature and art. I enjoy looking after the bonsai, experimenting with different soils and feeds. I enjoy the artistic side of the bonsai, the shapes and the pots. It is a voyage of discovery. Every day I learn something new and almost every day I see the bonsai differently, depending on the time of day and the season. Fortunately not every day I tweak the bonsai or the branches to reflect my mood and current knowledge. I enjoy walking, looking at nature and getting ideas how to improve what I am doing and reflect nature in my bonsai. But being a bonsai enthusiast is not a solitary hobby. Meeting other 'bonsai people'

Collectables

Unfortunately no badges or books for the moment, usual service will resume hopefully soon.

UKBA Quiz Jun24

Quiz- Location, Location,Location

Twins Mary and Ellie, along with their older sisters Jane, Lynn and Kitty decided it would be fun to visit the local Bonsai Show. None of them knew anything about bonsai but they were curious. On entering the show each stood opposite a tree and examined it in detail. From the clues can you work out where each stood and the bonsai they were examining.

- 1 Mary is standing next to the sister closest to the Trade Stands.
- 2 There are two sisters between Jane and Mary.
- 3 Lynn likes the zelkova.
- 4 The sister beside Lynn does not like the maple.
- 5 The twins can not decide whether the bonsai in the centre is a zelkova or an elm.
- 6 Jane is staring intently at the juniper
- 7 Kitty is beside the sister opposite the elm

Answers to May24 Quiz

oak £100
juniper £1200
hemlock £700
maple £300
Total £2000

--- Geoff Conybeare

UK Bonsai Association



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