



BONSAI NEWS UK

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Editorial: January Issue.

First and foremost, a Happy New Year to everyone and here is hoping that 2016 proves a successful year 'bonsai-wise' for all concerned.

Following what is always a quiet time regarding shows, there is little to report although some late material is incorporated into this month's 'Bonsai News U.K.' with the Stourbridge Bonsai Society event which took place during late autumn (see page 4). As we move further into 2016, we hope to receive more society reports, so please do not hold back – send us a written report together with images of trees displayed and demonstrations taking place. It all adds to readers having an opportunity to see what other societies are doing, as well as putting your society "on the map".

Looking at the material sent by societies advertising their forthcoming events, we are tending to focus in listing those whose events will be taking place over the next three to four months. As each subsequent 'Bonsai News U.K.' is issued each month, then additional society events will be added. What is important is for societies to ensure that the relevant information is received in good time – thus an event taking place in June to be advertised needs to be with us no later than two months beforehand, bearing in mind that the Bonsai Calendar of Events which lists event world-wide and the 'Bonsai News U.K.' are sent out electronically during the first week of each month.

For the early part of this year, the major events taking place include the XVII Noelanders Trophy later this month in Genk, Belgium and which is always a draw for bonsai enthusiasts from throughout Europe, the Brits being no exception. This year's event looks like the biggest yet, with some 50% more traders (90 in total) compared to previous occasions. Within the U.K., February sees the ever popular 'Winter Image Show' being held in Swindon – as always, well worth a visit.

In March, there will once again be the annual 'Bonsai Boot Sale' at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens followed by the FoBBS A.G.M. Member societies will shortly be receiving all the usual Accounts and Reports, and as it is an opportunity for you to have a chance to discuss all matters regarding bonsai within the U.K., do take the opportunity to attend.

Malcolm Hughes,
Chairman, FoBBS.

Future Shows

January 22 –24 2016

NOELANDERS TRIP 2016

Once again, Chrissie Leigh-Walker of Bushukan Bonsai will be organising a coach trip to the 2016 Noelanders Trophy, being held over the weekend of the 23rd/24th January.

The coach will leave the U.K. on **Friday, 22nd January**, returning on the following **Monday, 25th January**.

Anyone interested in participating in the trip should contact Chrissie either by phone or e-mail:

Tel: 01702 201029. E-mail: bushukan-bonsai@ic24.net

February 28th 2016

SWINDON WINTER IMAGE SHOW 2016

Stratton Leisure Centre, Grange Drive, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN3 4JY

March 13th 2016

BONSAI BOOT SALE' AND FEDERATION BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES AGM

The Loudon Suite, Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Booking for Boots, please contact Kim Turton at: turtonkim@hotmail.com

March 27th 2016

The Bonsai Group Spring Show, Capel Manor, Enfield, EN14RQ

www.bonsaigroupenfield.wix.com

April 2nd-3rd. 2016

Spirit of Shohin 2016 at Royal Horticultural Society Grounds, Wisley, GU23 6QB

A major exhibition of the best of British shohin bonsai run by British Shohin Bonsai in association with

Sutton Bonsai Society: antique.netsule@gmail.com

April 10th 2016

The Bonsai Traders Association, Spring Show, Sports Connexion, Ryton on Dunsmore, Coventry

The perfect opportunities to get all your bonsai essentials.

For more information contact Corin Tomlinson. Phone: 0115 9205757 Email: office@bonsai.co.uk

www.bonsaitraders.org.uk

April 24th 2016

South Staffs Bonsai Society Annual Show

Birmingham Botanical Gardens, 10.30 - 4.00

May 1st 2016

Wessex Bonsai Exhibition and 27th Open Competition

Kinson Community Centre, Pelhams Park,, Kinson, Bournemouth. BH10 7LH.

Admission: £3.50 Concessions 1030-1700.hrs

Contact: Brian Evans 07763.338101 www.wessexbonsaisociety.co.uk

May 15th 2016

Middlesex Bonsai Show, Woodford Hall, Poplars Close, Ruislip, Middiesex.HA4 7BU.

Contact: Roger Gibbs 07542.594557

Email: roger.gibbs@talktalk.net www.middlesexbonsaisocietyweebly.com

Bonsai Shows, why do we have them?

The following are the views of someone who has been involved with Bonsai and local clubs for many years and are my views and not necessarily those of the clubs and shows I have been associated with. I have been involved with arranging local club shows and have often asked myself the question, why are we doing this? With the associated worries of securing a suitable location, will we have enough trees to display? Will we have any visitors? Will we cover our cost? etc. etc. But generally all has been OK and we have had a successful show.

But we still come back to my original question why are we doing it? I think we all have in our make up the feeling of wanting to show off our achievements and a show gives us the opportunity to do this.

There are many Bonsai Shows held and they fall into a number of categories from the basic club show to the top international shows and I feel there is a place in the Bonsai Calendar for all of them.

But do we ever consider who will patronise the various types of shows we are organising and what we are trying to portray as the purpose of the show?

The local club shows are generally appealing to the local populous and hoping to generate interest in Bonsai and as a result get new members for the club. Where the top shows are also trying to raise the interest in Bonsai but in general appeal mostly to existing exponents of Bonsai and as such aspire everyone to improve their trees and how to display them.

I was recently speaking to one of the leading Bonsai Professionals about shows, and in his words, we all work at home with our trees and think we have done our best but going to a show gives us a chance to compare our tree against others, and see how we can in most cases improve them.

So this is surely an opportunity to help us improve the quality of our trees.

Among the many shows I have been involved with recently are the shows put on by Newbury and District Bonsai Society where approx. ten clubs get together, each club putting on a club display and generally a member of each club is working on a tree adjacent to their display; this all contributes to a friendly day and members of the public have the opportunity to raise questions with club members and so promoting Bonsai. The second show I have been involved with is the Heathrow Bonsai Show; this show was the idea of Mark and Ming Moreland who wanted to promote interest in Bonsai and in doing so gain new members for local clubs. Whilst not being involved with the original idea, I had concerns it would not succeed, I am glad to say I was wrong. I have been involved since the first show, which was held in a local scout hall and a couple of tents and over the first couple of years of horrendous weather we all soldiered on to arrive at the 2015 show which was the sixth, held at a local school where 25 clubs were displaying. This show generates tremendous interest; there were 300 plus paying visitors on the day. These visitors were mainly members of the general public new to bonsai. The visitors and many club members present on the day contribute to a most friendly atmosphere.

One area of shows that is always contentious is the competitive element, whoever judges the trees and what criteria they use it will always be influenced to some extent by their personal feelings. So when we sometimes do not agree with the decision we should try and understand how and why the decision was arrived at because, after all, Bonsai will always be a subjective subject.

At one particular show I was confronted by someone who introduced himself as an RHS member and felt what we were doing to the trees was cruel and in the end they would die. Whatever reason I gave for growing the trees he was not interested; when I asked did he prune his roses trim his hedge or cut his grass? Well I will not repeat his reply. We must bear in mind people who visit shows may have different opinions and engage with them even when the possible criticism may not always be constructive.

I know among the Bonsai fraternity there are mixed feelings about the public voting at bonsai shows. As a club we were looking for ways to engage visitors and extend their visit to our club show. About 12 years ago we started a competition where the public do vote on the trees but on the voting slip we make it clear they are voting for the tree that most appeals to them which not might necessarily be the best tree. We have found this does promote friendly competition and an interest for visitors to the show. It is interesting to hear them discussing the trees and which one they are going to vote for. I note many clubs are now following this concept of visitors voting for their favourite tree.

I do find at local shows where there is generally a mixture of imported trees, collected material, developed garden centre material etc. the public are more likely to ask questions about the trees. When the history of a tree is explained, especially if it is collected material etc. you usually get a response 'so it is not always necessary to spend a lot of money to get started so I might have a go'.

Surely another reason for a show but perhaps in particular the club show.

So at the end of trying to answer my own question, there are obviously more reasons for than against continuing with our shows but perhaps occasionally to think why are we arranging the show and are we fulfilling the criteria of why we are doing it.

Roger Gibbs Middlesex Bonsai Society

STOURBRIDGE BONSAI SOCIETY SHOW REPORT

The members made an early start on the morning on Sunday 15th November 2015 for what was their 3rd annual winter exhibition at the Stourbridge Bonded Warehouse. The day turned out bright and spirits were high. We collectively exhibited a similar number of trees to last year's show and again the quality of the material on show became apparent with the trees and displays definitely surpassing the high standard that was achieved last year. This statement was supported by Steve Tolley, as well as many other Bonsai Society members who had travelled some distances to attend the show. Phil Holroyd was on hand taking our official photographs.

Steve Tolley, an Honorary member, provided the club members and visitors with an excellent in-depth talk on the aesthetics behind bonsai design. Initially, he provided us with advice on how our tokonoma displays and members exhibited trees could be enhanced by using appropriate stands and appropriate companion accessories. Our exhibits were used as examples during the talk and members learned how to achieve excellence. We were in awe of his wealth and depth of knowledge on the subject. It was obvious that it comes very naturally to him. A raffle was held later in the day, which took some time as there were many prizes raffled.

Can I firstly offer thanks to Steve who supported us throughout the day alongside those members who exhibited trees and to those members who helped behind the scenes? And finally, I would also like to thank our ladies who carried out our sales and catering functions, too.

Maurice Davies , Chairman



"All you need to do is to send in a brief report of your Show preferably with pictures and it will appear next month"

We're on the Web!
www.fobbsbonsai.co.uk

MIDLAND BONSAI SOCIETY

Meetings first Thursday of every month at Moseley Cricket Club, Streetsbrook Road, Shirley, Solihull, B90 3PE at 7.30 p.m.

Presentations by visiting speakers and society members or workshops. Also visits to other bonsai related places of interest

Details: Richard Gilkes, 07803 593024.

SOUTH STAFFS BONSAI SOCIETY

Monthly meetings - 3rd Tuesday Walmley Community Hall, Crawford Road, B76 1NP 7.30 pm Meetings in the form of workshops with occasional speakers, beginners are welcome to bring trees to work on.

davidbarnsley@blueyonder.co.uk

THE BONSAI GROUP, Enfield based wishes to announce that it is formally changing its name to:
NORTH LONDON BONSAI GROUP

REDDITCH BONSAI SOCIETY

A friendly society meets 3rd Thurs. Webheath Village Hall, Heathfield Rd, Webheath, Redditch, B97 5SQ. Details Richard Gilkes, Secretary tel. 07803 593024.

STOURBRIDGE BONSAI SOCIETY

The members meet every second Sunday, January to November at the Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge, DY8 4LU.

Prospective new members will be very welcome.

Info. Maurice on 07415 158167.

Show Reports continued



SWINDON AND DISTRICT BONSAI SOCIETY

Monthly meetings – 2nd Tuesday of month [excluding Dec.]

Coleview Community Centre, Towcester Road, Swindon, Wiltshire. SN3 4AS 1930 hrs – 2200 hrs

paulbowerbank@lineone.net Tel. 07982 401103.

Facebook – Swindon & District Bonsai Society

Future meetings:

Tues 12th Jan 2016

Review of 2015 & Show display prep.

Tues 9th Feb

Show displays and show prep.

Sunday the 28th Feb

Swindon 'Winter Image' show.

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All future editions are totally dependent upon you the members, without your information this cannot happen, please help us to make it succeed.

Club Activities

BLACKMORE VALE BONSAI GROUP

Meetings second Friday each month, venue, United Church Hall, Bell St Shaftesbury, likely to change, please check web site or e-mail Geoff for details.

Workshops from February to October, Thorngrove Garden Centre, Gillingham.
4th Saturday from 11 am., to 4pm.
Cost £3 including refreshments.

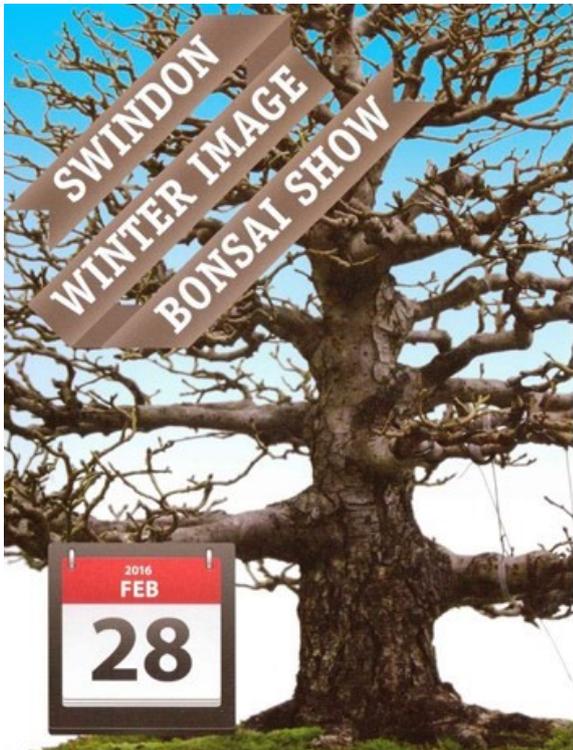
SALISBURY BONSAI SOCIETY

Venue: Laverstock Village Hall at 7:45pm
Meetings first Monday of month , the 7th March will be talk and demonstration on bonsai landscapes, all welcome.

MIDDLESEX BONSAI SOCIETY

Meeting 3rd Tuesday of each month 7.30pm
South Harrow Methodist Church, Walton Avenue, South Harrow, Middlesex. HA2 8QU.
Meetings include in-house workshop and visiting speakers. All are welcome
email roger.gibbs@talktalk.net.

Commercial



Swindon & District Bonsai Society will be holding their annual Winter Image Show on the 28th February 2016 from 10:30am to 4:00pm
£5 entrance

- Bonsai Sales
- Expert Advice on Hand
- Raffle Prizes
- Visiting Clubs & Societies
- Refreshments
- Awards

Grange Leisure Centre
Grange Drive, Stratton St Margaret
Swindon, Wiltshire
SN3 4JY
UK

Contact Paul on 07982 401103

Further details at
www.swindon-bonsai.co.uk

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Bonsai News UK is produced monthly with the exception of December

Insertions:

Free to FOBBS member Clubs
All other clubs £20.00 for 1 year of insertions
Commercial:
£25.00 per year for up to ¼ page advert