
FoBBS

SPEAKERS GUIDE

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Chairman's Letter



I would like to take this opportunity to firstly thank you for being a member of The Federation of British Bonsai Societies (FoBBS).

The information contained within this guide has been passed onto FoBBS by the people named within and at this stage, they are not listed with a specific recommendation nor a seal of approval from FoBBS. Many of them are known to most of you and you can be given recommendations by other individuals and societies that have used their services.

While we have endeavoured to ensure all information and listing details are correct, there have been some constraints on confirmation and want to remind you that the details listed are subject to change.

David Cheshire

Chairman

Federation of British Bonsai Societies

Charlotte Walby



Charlottes passion for Bonsai started in 1984. Since then she has spent her working life continually learning and developing her unique style. Beginning in 1990, she has annually visited China and now specialises in the art of Penjing. She is the only non-Chinese person to be invited to join the Guangzhou Pen-Jing Association, China and has been given a demo at one of their conventions.

Details of talks available

Penjing Style Landscapes

An inspiring and unique demon on creating a landscape

Root Over Rock

A step by step guide giving remarkable results

Tree Review

A fresh pair of eyes can turn a 'nice tree' into something fabulous. From pot to apex, this appraisal can offer you fresh ideas to work on

Back to Basics

Bad habits and sloppy techniques reflect badly on your tree. Sounds harsh but we all know how easy it is to cut corners and make do. With a few gentle reminders, especially at repotting time, your trees will truly benefit from this demo.

Contact Details

Email – kitwell@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile – 07793 325 551

Fee - Workshop full day (10:00-16:00) 10 students only (Spectators welcome)	£250
Fuel per mile	25p (plus ferry crossing from Isle of Wight)
Distance prepared to travel	150 miles (from Portsmouth or Southampton)
Equipment needed	None
Meal and/or overnight accommodation required	Meal or overnight accommodation required. To be arranged between myself and the club.
Other requests	At workshops please have your own tools and bring trees with you if you want advice.



Corin Tomlinson

Having studied bonsai for over 30 years, under some of the world's best respected bonsai masters, such as Wm Valavanis, from the International Bonsai Arboretum in Rochester New York, Chase Rosade from Pennsylvania, Yuji Yoshimura and of course my father, Harry Tomlinson. I now spend a great deal of my time travelling around the country, demonstrating the skills and artistry I have learnt.

Details of talks available

Introduction to Bonsai (including styling from nursery stock) - This is especially useful if your club/society has new members who would benefit from this foundation demonstration

Satsuki Azaleas - Demonstration on large field grown specimen. Information on care and maintenance of this species, includes a short slide show of these in flower (can be done at most times of the year)

Designing and Styling - With discussion and work on members trees, project material, the more the merrier!!!

Tray Landscapes - Creation of one or more tray landscapes/saikei plantings. Using rocks, tress, mosses and ferns to create a beautiful scene in miniature.

Flowering Trees - Lecture and demonstration on a selection of flowering and fruiting trees that will spice up any bonsai collection with colour and seasonal interest.

Contact Details

Greenwood Bonsai Studio, Ollerton Road, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 8PR

Email – corin@bonsai.co.uk

Telephone – 0115 920 5757

Website – www.bonsai.co.uk

Fee (2-3 hours talk/demo)	Demo fee - £130 (UK)
Workshop half/full day	Workshops £15-£20 per head, 6-10 students
Fuel per mile	40p
Distance prepared to travel	Anywhere
Equipment needed	Usually I can provide all I need
Meal and/or overnight accommodation required	Sometimes, if more than 200 miles away
Other requests	Last minute service – If you have been let down by another speaker or decide at short notice to have a visiting artist at your next meeting, let me know and I may be available. I can even do same day if possible (if you let me know before 12:00, I can be at your meeting that evening within a 4-hour drive). Many times, I can do the same subject your members are expecting!



Darren Mackay

I got my first Bonsai at age 18 and in common with a lot of people, it died! At this point a lot of people give up and assume the hobby is too difficult, this is not the case and I believe with the right instruction the mystery can fall away and you will be hooked by this fascinating and ever developing art form. It is my opinion that a great deal of what is taught in Bonsai is good practice but also it should be questioned and when styling trees, you should explore every avenue (even the unconventional) to try and release the Bonsai that is in every piece of raw material. Over the years I have been lucky enough to have had instruction from some fantastically gifted and knowledgeable bonsai artists (Marco Invernezzi and Peter Adams for example) and I owe a debt of gratitude to all of them but especially Kevin Willson who opened my eyes to carving and delicate styling which allows you to style the most unappealing of raw material.

I have shown trees at the Ginkgo show in Belgium and have trees featured in the Bonsai in Europe publication and I have done many workshops for local Bonsai and horticultural clubs as well as demonstrating at national shows, including the Joy of Bonsai in Bath. I will endeavour to impart my knowledge and experience to all who attend Seikatsu Bonsai School workshops and that you will leave satisfied and with more knowledge and ideas and of course confidence to continue, let's not leave out the fun!! Our Workshops are accessible to everyone whatever level you are at.

Details of talks available

Happy to talk on most subjects to do with Bonsai including but not limited to -

Bonsai Styles	Styling
Carving	Show display
Collecting	Horticultural / species requirements

Contact Details

Email – seikatsubonsaischool@gmail.com

Mobile - 07853 956324

Website – www.seikatsubonsaischool.co.uk

Fee (2-3 hours talk/demo) - Evening	£50
Day Workshop	£100
Fuel per mile	At cost
Distance prepared to travel	Any distance
Equipment needed	A table to work on
Meal and/or overnight accommodation required	Over 100 miles, requires a meal and/or overnight accommodation

David Cheshire



David has been growing Bonsai for over 25 years and has run his own nursery for more than 7 years. He has been the librarian and show manager of Ambion Bonsai Club since the age of 18 and acted as a committee member of FoBBS and FNBC.

Details of talks available

Juniper Styling Demonstration (Demo)

Rock plating's with young material (Demo)

Developing bonsai from seed and cuttings, looking at techniques used for different species, progression and development in the future

Wiring (Demo and PowerPoint presentation)

Grafting for Bonsai (Propagation techniques)

Grafting on Bonsai (Techniques to add branches and roots etc on different species)

Bonsai for beginners (Talking about why and how we grow Bonsai, breaking myths, discussing techniques, sizes styles etc)

Other topics can be covered, please contact David to discuss further

Contact Details

Unit 9 Centenary Business Centre, Hammond Close, Nuneaton, CV11 6RY

Email – david@bonsaidave.com

Mobile - 07584 991 975 Telephone – 02476 939905

Website – www.bonsaidave.com

Fee (2-3 hours talk/demo)	£85
Fuel per mile	40p
Distance prepared to travel	Any distance
Equipment needed	None
Meal and/or overnight accommodation required	Over 150 miles, requires a meal and/or overnight accommodation
Other requests	Workshop price is dependent on duration and content. Can also do a sales table on request.

Gennaro Capuano



My Passion for Bonsai started over 20 years ago in Italy and as with many enthusiasts of my age, inspired while watching The Karate Kid movie.

I purchase some magazines, a pair of scissors along with wires and attempted to create my first Bonsai, with some local garden centre raw material. Of course, I failed and killed my first tree.

I didn't give up and continued to buy starter bonsai material, watching videos, reading books & magazines, and eventually, I managed to keep them alive.

On moving to the UK, I joined a local Bonsai Club to improve my knowledge and skills. I then joined Ma-Ke School of Bonsai. Mark of Ma-Ke Bonsai inspired me to take Bonsai practice at next level, with his coaching and mentoring.

Today I manage Asamidori Bonsai website where I offer my services, selling Bonsai and related items along with the spread of weekly Blog's connected to the Bonsai world, to help and support new starters to get accustomed with the beautiful world of Bonsai.

Details of talks available

- Bonsai Basic Care
- Bonsai Pruning
- Bonsai Repotting
- Bonsai Wiring
- Choosing a Bonsai Pot
- Propagation and growing
- Creating Forest Group
- Root on Rock Bonsai
- Root Over Rock

Contact Details

Address – Stevenage – Hertfordshire

Email – asamidoribonsai@outlook.com

Mobile – 07852250868

Website – asamidoribonsai.com

Fee (2-3 hours talk/demo)	£20 x hour
Workshop full day	£80
Fuel per mile	45p
Distance prepared to travel	All of UK
Equipment needed	TBC on requirement
Meal and/or overnight accommodation required	TBC based on distance

John Armitage



John has been involved in bonsai since the age of 12, both as an amateur and a professional. John originally began studying under Dan Barton and later Marco Invernizzi before taking in the plunge and becoming a student of renowned Japanese Bonsai Master Nobuichi Urushibata. John continues to travel to Japan regularly to continue his studies.

Details of talks available

Shohin Bonsai - Creating, maintaining, special techniques and display.

Critiques and demonstrations on own or members trees.

Life as Bonsai student in Japan.

Workshops at my home or at the society's venue.

Contact Details

Email – jarmitagebonsai@hotmail.co.uk

Telephone – 0113 267 7297

Mobile – 07927 335 087

Website – www.johnarmitagebonsai.wordpress.com

Fee (2-3 hours talk/demo)	£100
Workshop full day	£150 (Maximum 10 participants)
Fuel per mile	40p
Distance prepared to travel	
Equipment needed	Usually, none needed
Meal and/or overnight accommodation required	Usually, none needed
Other requests	Sales table available with specially selected pots and Shohin trees.

John Hanby



I have been teaching bonsai for 25 years and I am responsible for the Newstead show and nursery, the John Hanby Bonsai School and Academy. I have studied with Bonsai master Takeo Kawabe. I have lectured/demonstrated throughout the UK, in Europe, New Zealand and Australia.

Details of talks available

I have prepared lectures/demonstrations but will happily tailor a talk to each club's specific requirements.

I am happy to critique members own trees.

I am willing to supply my own material or work on material provided by the club.

Contact Details

Email - john@johnhanbybonsai.co.uk

Website – www.johnhanbybonsai.co.uk

Telephone – 07399 383106

Fee (2-3 hours talk/demo)	£125
Workshop full day	£175
Fuel per mile	35p
Distance prepared to travel	Will consider any distance
Equipment needed	12ft sales table and 6/12ft worktables
Meal and/or overnight accommodation required	Possible for very long distance
Other requests	



John Trott

Mendip Bonsai Studio (MBS) was established in 1996 to further the development of education in the art and culture of Bonsai in the UK. The nursery was set up by John Trott in 1996 and is now established as one of the leading national exhibiting Bonsai nurseries in the country, having achieved a total of 90 RHS gold medals up to the end of May 2019. Prestigious Best in Show RHS awards have also been gained at Tatton Park in 2005 and Wiseley in 2007. Also best in show at Gardeners live, Birmingham in 2018 and 2016. MBS is now also well established in the UK as being one of the leading educational services available to learn the art of Bonsai. Instruction is given in all areas of Bonsai culture through workshops available. With a Bonsai background going back to 1969, Johns teaching puts a large emphasis on the students learning important horticultural practises relevant to growing, styling and maintaining Bonsai in top class condition. His workshops attract people from all walks of life, and from both the UK and overseas. The workshops operate in the heart of the Mendips, at various locations in Somerset. Those travelling long distances might like to consider staying overnight with the chance to combine two courses or enjoying a mini holiday for a few days and take in the many other attractions in the locality. There are many good establishments in the area, offering very reasonable priced accommodation with good food and ale. Information can be supplied on request or check out my website under the accommodation tab.

Details of talks available

Group planting	Styling Pines, styling Maples, styling Junipers
Literati styling	Inner-Active Pine grafting
Inner-Active Maple grafting	Field growing techniques
Native Trees	Many other subjects that clubs require

Contact Details

Mendip Bonsai Studio, Byways, Back Lane, Downside, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA4 4JR

Website – mendipbonsai.co.uk Email – john@mendipbonsai.co.uk

Telephone – 01749 344274 Mobile – 07711 205 806

Fee (2-3 hours talk/demo) Workshop half/full day	£100 – Evening talk/demo £200 – for more than 6 hours, please call for details (2x6 hour day, £375)
Fuel per mile	45p
Distance prepared to travel	Within reason
Equipment needed	Materials can be provided for sale, please provide tables.
Meal and/or overnight accommodation required	Accommodation and meal will be required for long distance
Other requests	I normally drive a high-top long wheelbase van to carry stock and demonstration materials. Room to park close to the venue with no height restrictions is required.

Malcolm Hughes



Malcolm Hughes started his interest in bonsai in 1977 and has studied with Peter Adams, Dan Barton and Salvatore Liporace, and done workshops with many other masters from around the world. His special interests are with Cedars and Pines. Accredited RHS bonsai judge.

Details of talks available

Demos on trees provided by society.

Demos on Cedars and Pines, using own material.

Critiques to societies requirements.

Talks on PowerPoint illustration on; Pines, Cedars, Acers, Pests and Diseases, Driftwood styles, Summer maintenance, Illustrated talks on bonsai in various countries.

Displaying and judging criteria on bonsai.

Workshops – evening or full day

Contact Details

The Woodlands, New Hall Drive, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B76 1QX

Email – mkhughes567@btinternet.com

Telephone – 0121 378 4837

Fee (2-3 hours talk/demo) Workshop half/full day	£95 Evening workshop - £25pp (min 5 people) Full day workshop - £40pp (min 4 people)
Fuel per mile	35p
Distance prepared to travel	100 miles
Equipment needed	2-3 tables, screen and extension lead
Meal and/or overnight accommodation required	If travelling more than 75 miles. Will travel further with accommodation provided.
Other requests	Help at club venue with loading and unloading material

Peter Foele



Studied under Danny Use in Ginkgo and became one of his assistants. Joined the Kawabe School and studied for many years with Kawabe San both in Belgium and Japan. Been a resident in Scotland since 2003 visiting Belgium regularly as I become more involved in the upkeep and maintenance of the trees for sale at the Ginkgo Centre, and later helping Danny in the maintenance of his top-quality trees in his private collection.

Details of talks available

I am happy to run workshops and subjects covering a wide range of Bonsai at all levels.

I look after and maintain a number of Bonsai collections in the UK and therefore I am also happy to give one to one personal classes with collections of Bonsai.

From 2011, I am interested in setting up a quarterly class with enthusiasts who wish to develop their Bonsai skills. We would work on a number of trees over the year, every three months. Please contact me for that. Good for clubs and smaller more dedicated growers.

Contact Details

Email – info@alba-bonsai.com

Mobile – 07886 527 205

Website – www.alba-bonsai.com

Fee (2-3 hours talk/demo) Workshop half/full day	£150 for 2/3 hour talk or Demo. £300 for a full day 6 to 8 hours. £1000 for a weekend of four workshops and 2 demos
Fuel per mile	At cost
Distance prepared to travel	Any distance at Weekends. Please book well in advance due to teaching schedule.
Equipment needed	Turntable and wire for demonstrations
Meal and/or overnight accommodation required	Happy to stay with the person or group that wish to host me.
Other requests	Please read pages on my website

Peter Warren



Began Bonsai in Japan in 2002, studying with world renowned master Kunio Kobayashi. After five years apprenticeship, Peter has travelled the world teaching Bonsai and working on trees of the highest calibre. Regular contributor to various magazines.

Details of talks available

Display

Shohin Bonsai

Japanese aesthetics

Technical and horticulture techniques

Repotting

Contact Details

Email – saruyama@gmail.com

Mobile – 07847 147 847

Website – www.saruyama.co.uk

Fee (2-3 hours talk/demo)	From £150
Workshop full day	From £350
Fuel per mile	To be discussed
Distance prepared to travel	Internationally
Equipment needed	To be discussed
Meal and/or overnight accommodation required	To be discussed
Other requests	

Rammon Hamers



Rammon has been practising Bonsai since 2004 when he was 19 years old. In 2006 he joined the local club in his home country of The Netherlands, there he became a student of Hotsumi Terawaka, Gijs MMeboerand Teunis jan Klien. Rammon met with Graham Potter of Kaizen Bonsai in 2010. A year later he started working full time with Graham and began demonstrating, also holding workshops in the UK, Belgium and The Netherlands.

Details of talks available

Cultivation/styling/refinement of Shohin/Chuhin Bonsai

Carving techniques with power tools, creating deadwood with the use of hand tools.

Critiques of members trees and wiring guides

Cultivating styling and refinement of; Larch, Junipers, Pines, Taxis, Privet, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Elm and Maples.

Yamadori and nursery material development.

Classes for beginners can be catered for and with prior arrangement, materials from Kaizen can be supplied on the day.

Contact Details

Mobile – 07775 269 597

Email – rhamers85@gmail.com

Website – www.facebook.com/rhbonsai

Fee (2-3 hours talk/demo)	£80
Workshop half/full day	£100/£150
Fuel per mile	35p
Distance prepared to travel	Any distance from Uttoxeter, Staffordshire
Equipment needed	Sales tables
Meal and/or overnight accommodation required	Will be discussed directly with the club.
Other requests	

Simon Temblett



I have been dedicated to Bonsai for the last 35 years. None of my Bonsai were created from expensive material and I work with an unusually wide range of species. Creatively my taste is also varied. My best-known Bonsai are classic miniature trees, but I also enjoy experimenting with new techniques and more challenging images.

Details of talks available

Bonsai from humble material

The advantage of taking your time, including a demo of my deadwood enchantment technique.

Bonsai as an Art

A look at some new techniques and creative ideas.

Contact Details

Rydon Brake, Rectory Road, East Ogwell, Devon. TQ12 8AH

Email – si.temblett@gmail.com

Telephone – 0117 937 4850

Mobile – 07582 020 357

Fee (2-3 hours talk/demo)	£140
Workshop full day	£200 £160 for 1-2-1 workshop
Fuel per mile	30p
Distance prepared to travel	Open minded
Equipment needed	Just a few tables to display my work
Meal and/or overnight accommodation required	If distance is over 100 miles
Other requests	

Steve Kitchman



Steve Kitchman trained with the founder of China Mist Bonsai Pottery and continues to develop glazes alongside the original designs, producing a range of stylish pots to suit all shapes and sizes of tree. He is also able to build you a commissioned pot for your tree. Specialises in oval and round pots, able to make large sizes up to 70cm length.

Details of talks available

Steve will bring clay and tools to your bonsai club, or society, and facilitate a 'hands on' workshop where members can produce a hand made pinch pot to their own design. The finished designs will be dried, glazed and fired by Steve back at the pottery, before being handed back to your members. As part of the workshop, a talk and Q&A session will be included about pot making and matching your tree with a suitable pot.

Contact Details

Email – steve@chinamist.co.uk

Mobile – 07961 934444

Website – chinamist.co.uk

Fee (2-3 hours talk/demo)	£90 + pot making requirements
Fuel per mile	45p
Distance prepared to travel	90 miles
Equipment needed	Tables and chairs, for pot display and for working with clay
Meal and/or overnight accommodation required	If distance is over a 90 minute drive time
Other requests	An enthusiastic set of people and smile!



Steve Tolley

Bonsai Artist Steve Tolley began his Bonsai education under the guidance of Dan Barton, with the emphasis on aesthetics and Bonsai philosophy. He has studied with the best in Europe and lived and studied with Japanese Bonsai Master Hotsumi Terekawa.

Steve's rise to international recognition has been fast, and he has noted for his detailed work, aesthetic vision and great technique. He has created numerous classical bonsai and is noted for his work with Conifers, in particular Pines and Junipers.

Steve is a full time bonsai professional, traveling all over the world to teach and demonstrate as well as his own bonsai academy at his studio. Under his guidance students from the UK and abroad learn about the art of bonsai. In 2005 Steve was the winner of the BCI (Bonsai Clubs International) writer, Artist, Photographer Award. He has created trees that have won the Noelanders Trophy two years in a row and he maintains important collections both in the UK and Europe. Steve's aim is to make 'good' bonsai accessible to everyone and recognised as a true art form.

Details of talks available

Bonsai styling and refinement lectures and critique

Workshops for individuals, groups and bonsai societies

Master classes Bonsai academy

Carving services Residential courses – workshops

'Bonsai in depth' courses Bonsai for sale

Occasionally I will have bonsai, pre bonsai and yamadori material available.

Contact Details

Email – stevetolleybonsai@gmail.com

Telephone – 01299 266994

Website – www.stevetolleybonsai.com

Fee (2-3 hours talk/demo)	£120
Workshop half/full day	£125/£250
Fuel per mile	40p
Distance prepared to travel	Prepared to travel any distance
Equipment needed	
Meal and/or overnight accommodation required	
Other requests	Please enquire for other services

Tony Tickle



Tony has done bonsai since 1983. He won his first Ginkgo awards in 1997, UK winner and runner up in the European New talent competition in 1995, coached three UK new talent winners including Mike Sullivan who won the event in 1998. He was on Board of Director for BCI 2003-2005 and is a member of ABBA. Tony demonstrates at major conferences throughout the UK and Europe, is widely published and has a Bonsai selected for four Ginkgo awards, nominated for a Noelanders award in 2009.

Details of talks available

Bonsai from native European trees, in particular; Hawthorn, Yew and Pine and lectures, conducts workshops, one to one and demonstrations on these species.

Trees prepared for exhibition

One to One workshop fully catered and accommodated

Bonsai event planning and consultation Virtual Bonsai live demonstration

Lecture/presentation - Bonsai from garden trees

Lecture/Presentation - How to collect Yamadori

Contact Details

Yamadori, The Gatehouse, Summerseat, Bury, Lancashire, BL9 5PE

Mobile – 07802 837 739

Email – tony@yamadori.co.uk

Website – www.yamadori.co.uk

Fee (2-3 hours talk/demo)	£125
Workshop half/full day	£250/£400
Fuel per mile	40p
Distance prepared to travel	
Equipment needed	None
Meal and/or overnight accommodation required	Happy to stay with a club member. I am a Vegetarian.
Other requests	Maximum 10 people per workshop.