



BONSAI NEWS UK

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A quiet period over this last couple of months, but now we are aware that the bonsai “show season” is about to begin. Last month was the ‘XVII Noelanders Trophy’ in Genk, Belgium while this month we look forward to another “Swindon Winter Image Show”. These are the first of the bonsai events to take place around the country.

It is with bonsai shows in mind that an area of discussion opens up. In last month’s “*Bonsai News UK*”, Roger Gibbs of the Middlesex Bonsai Society expressed his personal views on the subject of “Bonsai Shows and why do we have them”? His article reflected on a number of factors and, to my mind, emphasised the need for putting on displays of bonsai, be it the small, annual club show or, at the other end of the spectrum, a major national (or international) bonsai event.

What made the greatest impact on me, as a novice to bonsai back in the very late 1970’s, was going to see a bonsai exhibition put on by the Bristol Bonsai Society. Having only been studying bonsai for a couple of years, what I encountered at that event was then an absolute eye-opener! There were, to my inexperienced eyes some spectacular trees, beautifully laid out..... and this raised the question – could I ever aspire to that standard? Initially disheartened at what I saw compared to my, very modest efforts, moved on to the stimulus for trying a lot harder – it provided me with a target of what was possible with patience and effort.

Even today, you can appreciate the importance of bonsai exhibitions, not solely as an event to go to in order to admire trees on display, but also as an education, to see what is possible to achieve with your own trees. This is so significant; bonsai exhibitions are an important window on what bonsai is about, all the more reason for society members to go to these events, see and learn what could be achieved on their part.

This leads conveniently to the article submitted for this month’s “*Bonsai News UK*” by Peter Warren. It places a different perspective on the idea of bonsai exhibitions and his concerns as to what direction they might take in the future and their impact on British Bonsai, notably for bonsai societies in the future. We need bonsai exhibitions for the bonsai enthusiast to see and in turn learn what can be attained..... and hopefully avoid that person continuing to grow sticks in little pots ten or fifteen years later!

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 have received the 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

March 13th 2016

BONSAI BOOT SALE' AND FEDERATION BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES AGM

The Louden Suite, Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

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

March 27th 2016

North London Bonsai Group Spring Show, Capel Manor, Enfield, EN14RQ **10.00am-4.00pm**

Includes bonsai auction 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: includes antique.netsuke@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, Middieesex.HA4 7BU.

Contact: Roger Gibbs 07542.594557 Email: roger.gibbs@talktalk.net

www.middlesexbonsaisocietyweebly.com

May 24-28th 2016

CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London

For five days in May, the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea will be transformed into the world's greatest flower show. Fobbs and several other bonsai traders and individuals will be exhibiting.

Any members Fobbs member clubs interested in manning the stand contact Reg Bolton

Sun 29 May 2016

Chiltern Bonsai Society Show

Exhibition of Bonsai together with miniature stone landscapes from The British Suiseki Club

Sales, and a chance to meet Harry Harrington, with signed copies of his latest. 10 am until 4 pm. Admis-

sion £2.00 Liston Hall, Marlow, Buckinghamshire SL7 1DD

Ambion Bonsai Club

News from Ambion Bonsai. First meeting of the year in January, Evening revolved around members talking about their trees, what they'd done, and what they intended to do with a Q and A on the trees. Photo. President, George Cox, demonstrating.

**Comments From Sandy Reid, Wisbech**

Malcolm, your comment that exhibitions of bonsai ignite enthusiasm, and are a window for all society members and the general public alike, is so true. Peter Warren's provocative article on where the craft moves from here is similarly stimulating.

Peter's first thoughts on individuals being willing to pay to exhibit struck a chord. The majority of bonsai enthusiasts who I meet professionally consider bonsai to be a cheap hobby. Trees which are considered for purchase are looked for as bargains with a 'deal' being seen as part of the purchase. Club members are very willing to give their time, construction skills and effort to produce and staff club exhibition stands and these are often of a high standard to show the trees exhibited in a good light. But individuals personally paying to exhibit? I don't know?

My club has eleven members, all of whom are now over 60, and most of whom attend every meeting. We are very aware that the club will decline as we all age and if no new blood comes in. Our personal enthusiasms are as high and our bonsai-learning rates are probably higher than ever due to professional instruction within the group. Our meetings are dynamic, active and invigorating and certainly a highlight of my life. We have put on exhibitions to attract new members and several existing members have come through these. Showing trees does work in getting the word out there.

I know that there are many bonsai growers who beaver away by themselves and either do not know of their local club or consider it irrelevant. More than once we know of their interest only after their demise when their partner approaches us to dispose of the collection. Yes, some collections are composed of 'sticks in pots' but others are large and well-cared for. Clubs should support the individual member to progress their trees. A disappointing lack of positive tree development must be the major factor in so many giving up bonsai. Many clubs, I would suggest, are not doing this and will in time collapse. It was so good to hear of the North Stoke and Staffs group initiative.



Spirit
of
Shohin
2016

2016 Show British Shohin Bonsai



[BREAKING NEWS!!!!!! Your chance to undertake a workshop with Taiga Urushibata](#)

As part of its *"Spirit of Shohin"* weekend on **April 2nd and 3rd 2016**, the British Shohin Bonsai are delighted to announce that we will be running workshops led by **Taiga Urushibata**.

This is a **major opportunity** to work with one of Japan's foremost young bonsai artists and will give participants an unforgettable bonsai experience.

The cost for these workshops will be £130 per day. Participants should bring their own material and equipment. Please note that **any size of tree is acceptable** for the workshop.

If you are interested in taking a place on one of these workshops, please contact us at britishshohinbonsai@gmail.com to book your place. Please state your preferred day – i.e. Sat or Sun or if either is acceptable.

Places will be strictly limited and allocated on a first come-first served basis so please get your booking in quickly to avoid disappointment.

Do not send any payment at this point. Once we contact you to say your booking has been successful, we will be asking for a £65 deposit immediately to secure the place, followed by the remaining £65 four weeks before the event. Unfortunately deposits will be non-refundable.

Get in quickly for this marvellous opportunity to work with one of Japan's finest bonsai artists. We look forward to hearing from you.



"All you need to do is to send in a brief report of your Show"

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.

Mar. 3rd China Mist

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

Mar. 15th demo Corin Tomlinson

davidbarnsley@blueyonder.co.uk

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. Next meeting March 13th 12.00 noon Info 07415 158167.

Prospective new members will be very welcome.

Info. Maurice on 07415 158167.

ACCRINGTON & DISTRICT BONSAI SOCIETY

Events for 2016

Spring Show

Sun 1st – Mon. 2nd May at Daisy Nook Garden Centre, Stannybrooke Rd. Failsworth,

Oldham M35 9WJ Tel; - 01616814245

Great Harwood Show

Monday 30th May Halley Rd Showground, Great Harwood Blackburn BB6 7TD

Two day Bonsai Exhibition

Sat 25 & Sun 26th June, Haworth Art Gallery Hollins Lane, Accrington, Lancs BB5 2JS Tel; - 01254233782

Summer Show

Barton Grange Garden Centre Sat 13th and Sun 14th August. Garstang Rd. Brock, Preston PR3 0BT; - 01995642900

BLACKMORE VALE BONSAI GROUP

Meetings second Friday each month, venue, Silver Band Hall, Bleke St Shaftesbury. Workshops from February to October, Thorngrove Garden Centre, Gillingham. 4th Saturday from 11 am., to 4pm.

Cost £3 including refreshments.

m5eay.geoff@btinternet.com

www.blackmorevalebonsaigroup.co.uk

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.

www.middlesexbonsaisociety.weebly.com

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.

SWINDON AND DISTRICT BONSAI SOCIETY

Monthly meetings – 2nd Tuesday of month [ex. 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

Tues 8th Mar

AGM

Commercial

'Technology & Nature in Harmony'



' BON-TAG working for a more secure future for Bonsai '

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Manchester Bonsai Society Programme 2016

Programme 2016

- 14.3.2016: Demonstration by John Barnes -planting on a slab.
 11.4.2016: Workshop.
 9.5.2016: Steve Kitchman of China Mist -pot making demo & £5.
 13.6.2016: Bring & buy sale and buffet.
 11.7.2016: Members show techniques.
 8.8.2016: Workshop.
 12.9.2016: Speaker: Roy Booth.
 10.10.2016: My favourite tree.
 14.11.2016: Guest speaker Chris Williams
 12.12.2016 Bring & buy sale and buffet.
 9.1.2017: Annual General Meeting.



make a pot for

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

Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month 8 pm-10 pm : Stockport Labour Club, 2 Lloyd Street, off Wellington Road North (A6), Heaton Norris, Stockport, SK41QP.

Annual Show: Saturday 14.5.16: At Lymm United Reformed Church, Brookfield Road, off Eagle Brow (A6144), Lymm, Cheshire, WA13 OQL, 10am - 4pm. Car park on Davies Way, WA13 OWQ.

RHS Tatton Show. 20/24.7.16: Members may volunteer to man the stand and speak to members of the public about the art of bonsai, and to see some of the show.

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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

Bonsai News UK is produced by Kath Hughes for FoBBS and all Bonsai enthusiasts,
mkhughes567@btinternet.com

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