

The **Bonsai** **Review**



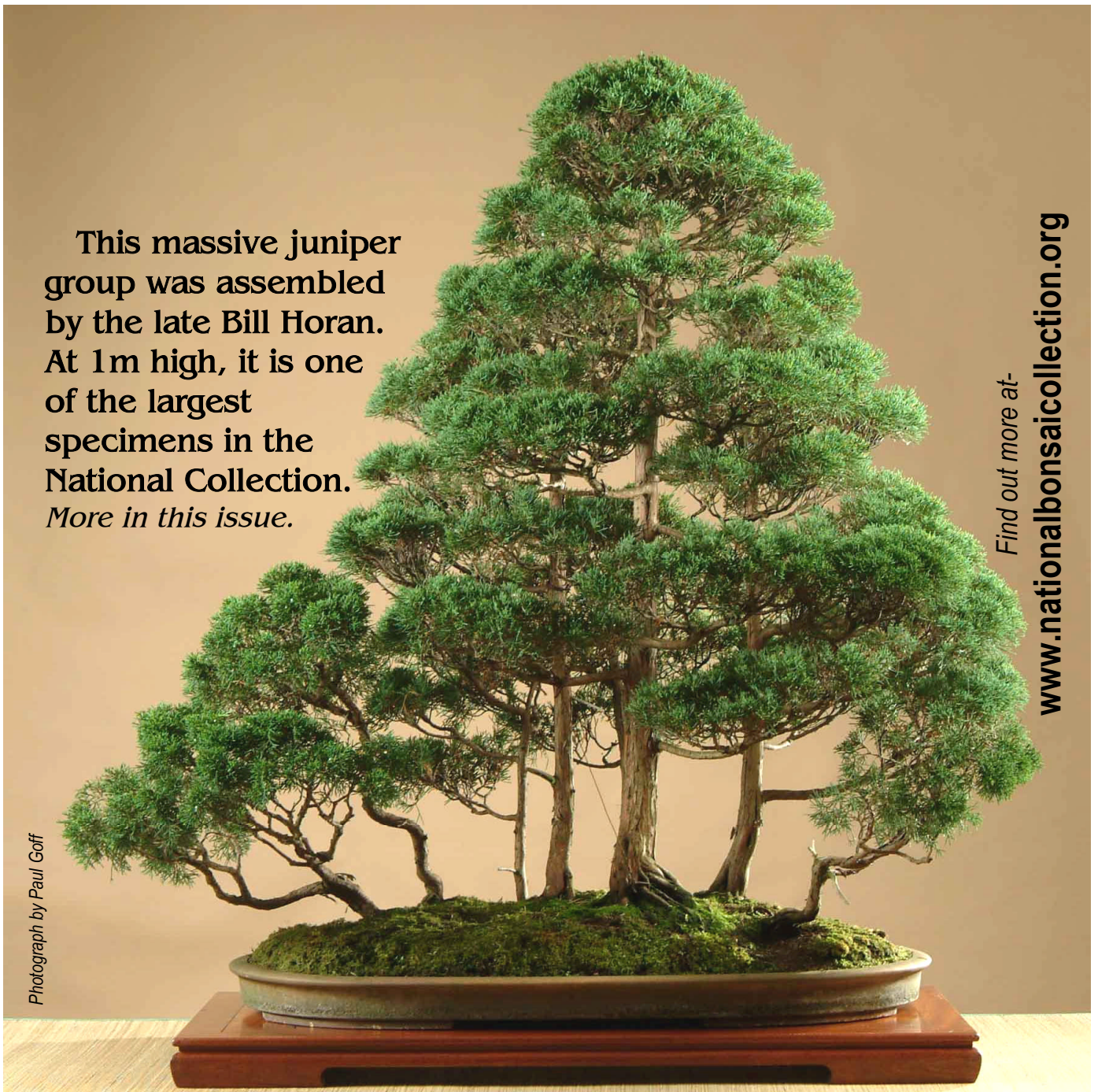
issue 44 February 2011

Trees from the National Collection

This massive juniper group was assembled by the late Bill Horan. At 1m high, it is one of the largest specimens in the National Collection. More in this issue.

Find out more at-
www.nationalbonsaicollection.org

Photograph by Paul Goff



Trees of the National Collection

by Malcolm Hughes

"The Bill Horan Juniper Group"

Bill Horan, a vital character in the early history of British bonsai, is probably unknown to many of today's British bonsai enthusiasts. Born way back during the days of the First World War, Bill was a true Cockney, living for most of his life in Peckham, South-East London. We do not know exactly when his interest in bonsai started, but by the 1970's, Bill was a founder member of the British Bonsai Association, one of the earliest clubs in the U.K. A semi-national organisation based in Stockwell, South London, the club produced what today might be perceived as a very basic bonsai magazine that had an almost national distribution, there being virtually no bonsai publications in those days.

By 1980, Bill was to head up the team that was, two years later, to establish the Federation of British Bonsai Societies (FoBBS), and over the next few years, he had the experience of a lifetime, joining together with his wife Rene, a number of journeys to bonsai nurseries and events within Europe, organised by the then flourishing FoBBS.

Bill loved it all; no-one in the U.K. had seen such bonsai, for those of us attending these events, it was all amazing. It culminated in the summer of 1991 when FoBBS hosted an international bonsai convention for the organisation Bonsai Clubs International at the newly opened International Convention Centre in Birmingham. Bill was by this time elderly and frail, having recently lost his wife Rene. During the event, which at the time was the largest bonsai exhibition and convention ever held in Europe, he was heard to comment that "...I can't believe what I started in 1980 could so soon reach these heights".

Soon after, Bill's health seriously deteriorated and he died in 1993, bequeathing his largest bonsai, an already famous juniper group, to the newly opened National Bonsai Collection.

Dan Barton worked endlessly to bring this amazing but grossly overgrown group back to pristine condition and soon it had pride of place at the forefront of the collection; and there it has remained ever since. As one of the largest specimens in the National Collection – the primary tree in the group stands some 100 cm. In height – it is a group of trees that require considerable maintenance. That aside, it has nevertheless proved itself one of the most popular exhibits among the visiting public.

Make sure you see the specially housed
National Collection when you attend the
Best of British Bonsai event
9th-10th April, at the
Birmingham Botanical Gardens

CLUB ACTIVITIES

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BONSAI SOCIETY

Next meeting 3rd March- Workshop.
Monthly meetings 7.30pm at Weston Favell
Parish Hall, Booth Lane South,
Northampton.
More info- Martin 01604 407265

WARMINSTER BONSAI CLUB

Monthly meetings 7.45pm on 3rd
Thursdays at Christchurch Hall, Upper
Marsh Road, Warminster, Wilts BA12 9PJ
Visitors always welcome. More info phone
01225 761960
Email: clive.knight@talktalk.net

WESSEX BONSAI CLUB

Annual Exhibition and 22nd Open
Competition Sunday 1st May 10.30-5pm
Kinson Community Centre, Pelhams Park,
Kinson, Bournemouth BH10 7LH
Contact Malcolm Driffield 07823 440003

THE BONSAI GROUP

Next meeting 8th March- Peter Warren on
shohin bonsai. Monthly meetings 7.30pm at
Capel Manor, Enfield. Contact Joy Savage
020 8367 3196 E: joyliz.savage@virgin.net

COTSWOLD BONSAI SOCIETY

Monthly meetings on first Thursdays. Next
meeting 3rd March speaker Simon Temblett
on Bonsai from Humble Beginnings, and
Deadwood Enhancement. Visitors always
welcome.
Contact Valerie Claridge 01452 381963

MORE CLUB ACTIVITIES ON
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This communication arrived down
the 'In-pipe' at The Bonsai Review,
and what better way to put it than
in Alan's own words.

*As I celebrate my 70th birthday next
year, I have decided to close the pottery
located 17 miles South of Doncaster.*

*It will be difficult to walk away from
Chinamist, with so many customers that
have become friends over the years, but
now I feel the time is right for a change. I
will be selling **EVERYTHING** in the
pottery, and to help any interested
parties, I will also offer a 3 month period
of tuition and help with the equipment.
Naturally I am open to tailor made
options for purchasers, that will ensure a
smooth transition.*

If you are interested, please phone
01427 890434 or Email:
alan.harriman1@btinternet.com



Alan Harriman to close Chinamist with a grand sale

Photographs- Paul Goff

The lights and camera spectacle of Bonsai Presentations put trees from the Northamptonshire Bonsai Society well and truly in the spotlight at their February meeting, and here is a sample of the results. You can contact the long haired photographer on 01788 510442 if your club would like this kind of event on your agenda....*glorify your bonsai!*



Photographs- Paul Goff



CLUB ACTIVITIES

MIDDLESEX BONSAI SOCIETY

Welcomes new members. We meet on 3rd Tuesdays at 7.30pm monthly at South Harrow Methodist Church, Walton Avenue, Middlesex HA2 8QU. Contact Roger Gibbs E: roger.gibbs@talktalk.net www.middlesexbonsaisociety.co.uk March 15th meeting- Workshop with Harry Harrington.

HARLOW CARR BONSAI GROUP

The group meeting for Sunday 20th March will be an all day re-potting workshop commencing 10.30am in the Bramall Learning Centre, RHS Garden Harlow Carr, Crag Lane, Harrogate. More info phone Susan- 01845 523026

MANCHESTER BONSAI SOCIETY

Monthly meetings on the second Monday 8-10pm at The Parkside Social Club, Midland Road off Bramall Lane South, Stockport SK7 3DT. March meeting- re-potting workshop.

NORTH DEVON BONSAI SOCIETY

14th March meeting- Re-potting workshop and trip arrangements. No further details supplied.

MIDLAND BONSAI SOCIETY

Next meeting Thursday 3rd March- Bonsai Photography with Paul Goff. Moseley Cricket Club, Streetsbrook Road, Shirley, Solihull B90 3PE

AMBION BONSAI CLUB

Next meeting 24th February- Workshop. Monthly meetings at Hatters Space Community Centre, Upper Abbey Street, Nuneaton CV11 5DN

EXETER BONSAI SOCIETY

Tiz nort but bliddy wurkshops douw yer nex month. On 12th March us is all gwain out diggin' up yammydories. Then on 13th March, us is all gettin' together agagain so we can see wot us all killed the day bevore. Then on 27th us is evvin' anothur wurkshop so we can kill a few more uv our own trees as well. Proper job. More info contact Roger- 01392 823842 Email: brancheseverywhere@live.co.uk

ASHFIELD BONSAI CLUB

Next meeting 3rd March- General Workshop. The club will be working closely with Peter Warren throughout the year. In particular there will be re-potting workshops and one-to-one sessions in March, and Development Workshops in the Autumn. More info can be found on the Ashfield Blog: <http://ashfieldbonsaiclub.blogspot.com> Meetings at the Church Hall, Rectory Gardens, South Normanton.

SOUTH STAFFS BONSAI SOCIETY

Monthly meetings 7.30pm at the Fellowship Hall, South Parade off Upper Holland Road, B72 1QY

CLUB ACTIVITIES

SUSSEX BONSAI GROUP

Sussex Bonsai Group is a thriving, vibrant group of bonsai enthusiasts that meet monthly on fourth Wednesdays from 8.0pm at Wivelsfield Green Village Hall RH17 7QH. We welcome new members and encourage anybody interested in bonsai to come along. We drive a full programme of events throughout the year. Our upcoming meetings include 23rd February- re-potting workshop and 23rd March demonstration by Simon Temblett on deadwood techniques.

The Sussex Bonsai Group are also proud to be organising a National Show kindly sponsored by Kaizen Bonsai.

Our Bonsai World 2011 show will be held 3rd and 4th September at K2 Leisure Centre, Crawley, UK.

For a full programme of events and further details, please check out our event website www.bonsaiworld2011.co.uk We are pleased to announce our speakers will be Marc Noelanders, Ken Norman, John Armitage and Rammon Hamers. We are still accepting bookings for trade stands, societies and individual exhibitors. We also have a limited number of places available for workshops with our speakers.

For further information on any of these please contact: Peter- 01737 241046 or Email: sussexbonsai@btopenworld.com