

The first meeting of the new Bonsai group met in the excellent facilities of Venn Valley Vineyard (between Landkey and Swimbridge) EX32 0NN – it is well worth a visit for a coffee, or even lunch, or just a natter!

It was decided that we would meet once a month, on the first Wednesday at 2:00 pm. That would make the next meeting to be **Wednesday, 5 April** at the vineyard.

There were 12 people at our inaugural March meeting as a good amount of interest had been shown across three of the North Devon u3a groups.

After the initial admin an overview of Bonsai was given describing some of the main aspects of trees like to live outside; one is never too old to take up this hobby, especially if a small patio is the only outside space is available at home.

Using some of the example trees brought along, a general discussion of tree shapes, pots, soil, fertilizer and tools was explained.



With the emphasis of Bonsai being an easy hobby a rather scruffy Blackthorn was presented to the group. The first job was to decide the best aspect and therefore front of the tree. Very quickly, and with a great enthusiasm, decisions were made and the tree was styled in about ten minutes – photo to the left. The tree will now be left for a few months ensuring it is watered and fed.

For those with internet access there is a rather good website for beginners and good gardeners that is highly recommended.

www.bonsaiforeveryone.com

At our next meeting, please bring along any tree that we could discuss and I will be demonstrating how to repot a Cotoneaster.

Any queries or help needed please email or phone me:

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