

Once again 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, 3 May** at the vineyard.

We were a little down on numbers this month through various lurgies, family visits and general 'stuff'; nevertheless huge fun was had by all.

It was lovely that some folk brought their own material and were itching to get started to style it into a bonsai. Interesting mixture from privet to oak!



As a starter to the proceedings and a link to the last session whereby the group decided the styling of a rather scruffy Blackthorn, this was shown just four weeks later coming into leaf.



The main session was divided into two sections; a little theory covering some of the twelve main bonsai styles, formal upright, informal upright, cascade and a rare style called Tanuki. Examples of each were shown and discussed.



Also in the 'theory part' some of the important bonsai terms and expressions were explained; a 'jin', a 'shari' and the 'nebari'.



The second part of the afternoon was a demonstration of how to pot a tree from a plastic pot in which it had been trained, into a proper bonsai pot. In this case it was an Alder that had almost come into leaf so may be deemed a little late in the season, yet hopefully would survive nicely nonetheless.



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

www.bonsaiforeveryone.com

At our next meeting, please bring along any tree that we could discuss and I will be demonstrating branch placement through the use of bonsai wire; oh, and a little more theory.

Any queries or help needed please email or phone me:

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