

Any communications relating to the Newsletter, or on any other aspect of the society, can be addressed to either:-

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The *Satsuki* Newsletter



Issue Nine

Dear Members,

I must apologise for the fact that society matters have ground to a halt over the last few months. This has been due to my suffering constant back problems. Hopefully, things are going to be back to normal from now, though anyone who wishes to volunteer to help with the newsletter would be most welcome.

The Plymouth Convention had taken over much of my life during the past year or two and it feels strange to realise that it is now behind us. The event seems to have been enjoyed by everyone who attended and I am sure we all learned a great deal.

One aspect of the Japanese demonstrator's comments which struck me was the difficulty of transferring information on plant culture from one climate to another. For instance, Mr. Ishii stated that Satsuki should not be fed in mid-to-late summer. In Japan this is of course the hottest time of the year when temperatures are so high that most plant growth stops. In Britain we do not have such high summer temperatures and Satsuki continue to grow strongly throughout this period.

The Japanese masters also spoke a lot about transplanting Satsuki in the autumn. While this seems to work very well in Japan, again it seems the different climate has an effect. I have never found autumn transplanting as successful as spring repotting. Plants potted in the autumn are very often less vigorous through the first part of the following year.

Alexander Kennedy
Chairman

Plymouth 98

From May 29th to June 1st, Plymouth Bonsai Society staged the most important Satsuki Convention to be held outside Japan. Delegates had the chance to learn from watching two Japanese Masters and America's Joe Harris III at work on superb material. In addition, they were treated to a FOBBS National Bonsai Exhibition which experts such as Dan Barton and Nobuyuki Kajiwara have described as among the best shows ever staged in Europe.

Many of you will have attended the event, but the small overall number of delegates who attended the Convention was the most disappointing feature of the whole weekend. It would appear that Satsuki is still thought of as too specialised for many regular Bonsai hobbyists. I am sure that in the next few years there will be many people who will regret missing out on this unique opportunity.

The Convention began on the Friday with the Corin Tomlinson workshops. This took place at the same time as all the organisers were tearing their hair out trying to finish the exhibition on time, so Corin was just left to get on with it. He must have done a great job, for all the participants I spoke to had really enjoyed themselves and come away with good trees.

The three overseas demonstrators all worked on large Kinsai trunks which had been specially flown over from Japan. All three approached the task in a similar way, yet the trees all took their own individual character. Watching the Japanese in action was fascinating, while Joe Harris, though attempting to speak without the aid of an interpreter, managed to pass on a great fund of knowledge. One afternoon was not enough time for Joe to cover all he would have liked to do. It was a



The Plymouth Convention

Delegates move in for a closer look at the demonstration trees.
(All photographs of the Plymouth event by Bill Jordan)



great pity that he had to carry out the wiring of his tree out of sight as he is one of the worlds finest instructors on the subject of wiring.

All the trees used in the demonstrations have recovered well, though Mr Kondo's aim of having an exhibition tree in full flower by next May seems a little ambitious.

There was a great deal of concern about the Japanese repotting their Satsuki at the show. The trees had been brought from Japan with bare roots and had only been potted up for six weeks, so disturbing them again seemed a rather risky procedure. Both trees have recovered well, however, though their growth rate is still much slower than the Joe Harris tree which was not disturbed. Photographs of the trees in their current state will be included in the next issue and the plants themselves will all be displayed at the society show in Stourbridge next year.

Spectacular work was also done at the Masterclass workshops on Monday. Some of the participants were rather nervous about having to "perform" before an audience, but everyone did a great job, with some spectacular transformations. A number of people have also commented that they learned things from watching the Masterclass which they had not been able to pick up from the demonstrations, so it is obviously a format that works well.

Many hours of video-tape were recorded over the three days of the Convention. It is planned to get these edited into one tape which will be offered for sale. We will let you know details as soon as the tapes are ready. Slides, photographic prints and a video of the exhibition are also available (or will be shortly). These will be obtainable through FOBBS or from Plymouth Bonsai Society.



This beautiful Gyoten was exhibited by Les Walton.

SATSUKI FROM PLYMOUTH SHOW

The Eikan owned by Ruth Stafford-Jones. Over the years, this tree has led to many people in England developing an interest in Satsuki.



Variety Spotlight Chojuhu



Chojuhu = Treasure of longevity

A seedling originating in the Taisho era (1912-1926). Parentage unknown.

This is a very unusual Satsuki. Flowers open deep red and fade through orange then greenish to light brown. Flowers can remain on plant until winter. Very small flowers with narrow strap like lobes, (2.5cm-3.5cm) with very prominent stamens. Vigorous spreading growth.

This plant is quite difficult to train as a bonsai, but a few large specimens in Japan are very famous.

The Satsuki Society AGM 1998 (held on Sunday morning May 31st)

The Chairman welcomed all those able to attend and apologised for the fact that no advance paperwork had been sent out. This was due to the officers all being involved with Plymouth 98.

The Telford show in 1997 was discussed. This show was a success greatly due to the efforts of local members. This show would be the model on which future society events would be based. It was noted that more demonstrations would probably have enhanced the event.

The 1999 society show will be held in Stourbridge on 22nd and 23rd May in cooperation with Stourbridge Bonsai Society.

Suggestions for the year 2000 exhibition are still required.

It is proposed that the 2001 show may be combined with the FOBBS National Exhibition staged by Daisy Nook Bonsai Society.

Officers: As there were no alternative proposals, the existing officers were all re-elected.

Society pins and other items to be researched by Ray Beddow

The main item for discussion at the meeting was a proposal for individual members of our society to become members of the Japan Satsuki Society. This was discussed at length and considered a great idea. Acceptance was proposed by Brian Evans and seconded by Ray Beddow.

The 1999 Trip to Japan, organised by Alex Kennedy will commence on May 27th. This promises to be an exciting trip and is recommended to all who can manage it.



Our own Corin Tomlinson, who ran the workshops in Plymouth, receives a memento from Malcolm Hughes.

Joe Harris III proved a very popular and informative speaker.



Mr Ishii and Mr Kondo provided very impressive demonstrations. Here Mr Ishii receives a watercolour commemorating the event.

Badge Design

One item discussed at the Plymouth AGM was the production of a society pin-badge. Since the show, Ray Beddow and Alan Rose have been busy looking into the matter and we can now source enamel pins at a very realistic cost.

The next stage is to come up with a design for the pin. Alan Rose has already sent me several suggested designs, but we would like ideas from any other members who have suggestions.

Aim for a badge around 1" in size. It can be any shape you like (including tree-shaped). Aim for between about 3 and 5 colours plus the background metallic gold. Get your imaginations working!

Send your ideas to Alex Kennedy. Computer files on disk would be preferred (PC bitmap .bmp or similar). If you do not have a computer then you can send a drawing.

Designs will be reproduced in the next issue and members can then choose which design they prefer.

JAPAN TRIP

There are still a few places we want to fill on the Japan trip next year. The basic price is £1675 but has now been upgraded to include breakfast, private coach to our hotel, etc. If you are interested please contact Alex Kennedy. This is the trip of a lifetime and includes lots of interest to spouses.

SOCIETY ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR 31ST MAY 1998

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Carried forward	394.90	Newsletter	277.15
Membership	261.00	Travel (checking Stourbridge 1999 venue)	36.00
Telford show	299.00	FOBBS Membership	40.00
Bank Interest	00.36	Cash in bank	602.11
	<u>955.26</u>		<u>955.26</u>

Notes -

The Telford show income relates to expenditure in the previous year's accounts.

The society has a large amount of cash in hand this year. This is due to us not having to put on our own Satsuki show.