



TAUNTON & SOMERSET BONSAI CLUB

Club Workshop 17 September 2022

Can it really be 5 years since our last 1-day workshop at Howard's place? Covid and Howard's subsequent sale of his house have forced us to put these excellent club events on hold for over 5 years. But now we're back! Tony W very kindly offered his place in Street as a venue for workshops and so it was that with Tony included, nine of us gathered in his back garden in the sunshine.

There were far too many trees worked on for me to cover them all, so I'll pick out one from each participant.

John had taken on board my suggestion of getting suitable material from a garden centre or nursery and brought along this little *Pyracantha*. A good choice, as it will be relatively easy to care for and will bring fairly quick results. Within a short while he had reduced the apex, put movement into the trunk with wire and set the main branches into place. Next step will be a repot in the spring.



Tony had tanuki in mind for this little Juniper and piece of deadwood. He set to work drilling a hole through the wood, inserting the juniper trunk through it and fixing it to the wood. Finally the tanuki was replanted into a pretty little pot. A nice result, though I was alarmed at the small amount of root left! But it looks good and so fingers crossed!



Simon brought along the Privet stump that he had bought at the Staverton sale in July. Branches were shooting out everywhere so his first task was to thin them out, keeping those in the best positions and removal all others. Then he wired and placed the shoots that will ultimately form the branch structure and put some movement into them. Once set these branches will be cut back quite hard but for now the extra length helps to thicken them and set them in place.



Bob had several small trees but I particularly liked the result he achieved with this lovely little Lonicera. Mostly trimming with a little wiring, this little tree will need a decent pot in the spring. I like that he has kept the pretty purple berries.



Zac tackled a Yew which like most that are grown for hedging, had a very straight trunk with little taper. He stripped the bark off the top third to make a jin, and wired up a branch to form a new apex alongside the jin. Selecting and wiring the remaining branches completed the job. This is a good way to add interest and taper into an otherwise straight boring trunk.



Gary worked on several trees and somehow I didn't get "before" and "after" photos of most of them, except for a fairly simple trunk-chop on an oak. So I'll just show a couple of the trees he worked on, a hawthorn and an oak, and say that I think Gary had a busy and productive day!



Dave spent quite a while working on a collected Hemlock. The first job was to delve down to find the root-base which turned out to have some interesting movement and character. There is still a cluster of ugly little roots to take off but they are staying until other roots develop further. Thinning out and



wiring the branches resulted in quite a pleasing outcome. He will need to watch the wire as Hemlock seems to be prone to wires cutting in quickly. Despite that, branches tend to spring back a bit after the wire has been removed, so no doubt Dave will have to repeat the wiring to get the final shape.



It is just not possible to cover all the trees that folks worked on even if I did have photos of them all! There were probably 4 times as many trees actually worked on. Suffice to say that a lot of good progress was made, much bonsai knowledge/skills learned and a good deal of fun had along the way. So here are a couple of shots of members working and chatting in the sunshine.



Once again, huge thanks to Tony for use of his garden and providing teas and coffee etc. I hope that from here we can get back to having regular 1-day workshops for members; they really are invaluable in enabling members and their trees to improve.

*Ade Taylor
September 2022*