



SOMERSET BONSAI SOCIETY

Somerset Bonsai Society Annual Show -24 - 26 May 2025
Willowbrook Garden Centre, Wellington, Somerset. TA21 9HX.

Friday 24th May arrived, and it was time to set up our Annual Show at Willowbrook Garden Centre near Wellington. The weather forecast for the weekend changed every time we looked, so it was fingers crossed that the summer sunshine would continue for the next three days. We soon worked out how to erect our new marquee, thanks to Brian, and within a couple of hours had the 30+ trees and accents arranged to our satisfaction.

One thing that we pride ourselves on, is that our Annual Show always includes trees from our most recent newcomer members, who are just starting along the path of bonsai, as well as treasured specimen trees of the 'old hands' of the Society.

Those same 'old hands' were available at the show giving advice and help to members of the public, and as with most years, recruiting a few new members which is always an important part of our show.

Unfortunately, the hot sunny weather that we had enjoyed recently, decided not to continue into the weekend and we had to contend with a few showers on all three days. It may have been the unpredictable weather that contributed to the low number of attendees or maybe people just didn't want to go out. Either way we enjoyed a quiet few days with our trees and thanks go out to those members of the public and fellow bonsai club members who did make the effort to come and say hello. Hopefully we will get a few of them coming to our regular Society meetings. As usual we managed to help a few people with their bonsai problems, mostly trying to persuade them to keep their bonsai outside, rather than in the lounge or conservatory.

Also many thanks to Steve and Carol, from Willowbrook Garden Centre, for hosting the show and also to those Society members who attended the setting up and helped "man" the show over the three days - it's much appreciated for all your hard work and commitment, especially during the rain.

P.S. Best comment overheard during the show - The gentleman who turned to his wife and exclaimed "These look just like bonsai"! I guess we must be doing something right.

Alistair Hodgson
Secretary for Somerset Bonsai Society











