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## TAUNTON & SOMERSET BONSAI CLUB

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Bonsai Newsletter July 2021 – by Zoom



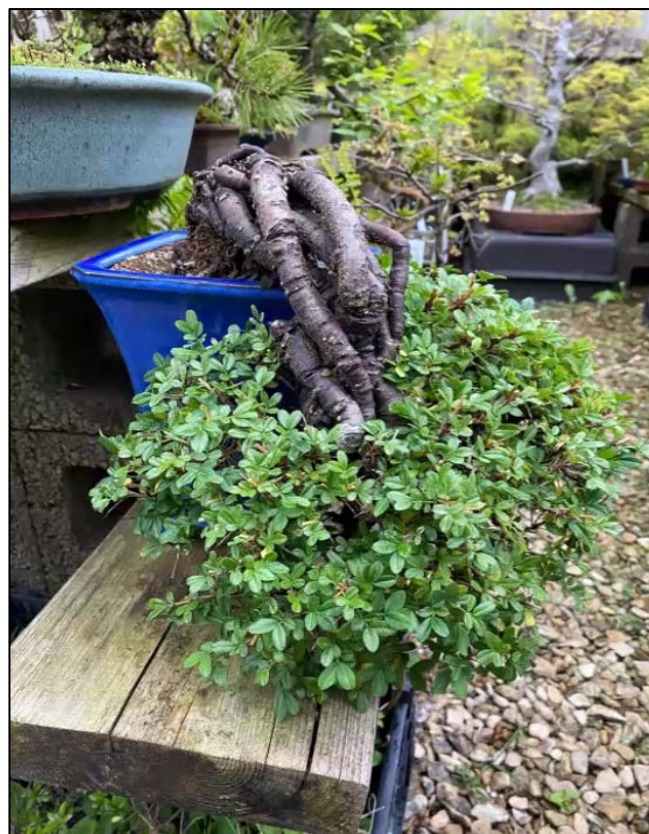
Last month Mike C announced that he was standing down from doing our monthly reports and so I've stepped in and will do my best to keep up the excellent work that Mike has done. Hopefully July was our last enforced Zoom meeting if we can have a full get together in August; we'll let members know about that once we've decided if and when. The Zooms have been good though and have no doubt kept some momentum going within the club. Actually, they have some advantages as members have realised that the whole life history of a tree can be covered by photos during a Zoom – something that would be difficult to do at an actual meeting, So, every cloud and all that and perhaps Zoom will have some use for us going forward, though not under another lockdown I hope!

Once again, we had members showing and discussing a whole range of different trees and associated topics. Weirdly, this year trees such as Beech that normally produce only a single flush of leaves have started putting out growth again. We put this down to the cool weather during June which encouraged growth to continue – Beech and some other deciduous trees often seem to shut down in hot weather. Pines have been very late into growth due to the cool temperatures and while Azaleas have also been late, generally their flowering has been fantastic!

**Alastair** was first in as usual, but with something a little different this month. Having got completely on top of all his bonsai tasks and now patiently waiting for his defoliated trees to burst forth again, he's been mounting his rocks! That is to say, making small wooden bases on which to present his suiseki. He claimed to have grown this rock from a grain of sand!



John Trott – Club President started off with his Siberian Pea Tree, which was evidently in need of a good trim to reveal the character of the twisted cascading trunks.



His Field Maple is kept in memory of Tony Champion, the previous owner. They are vigorous trees and should be treated much the same as a Trident Maple when it comes to trimming and pruning.

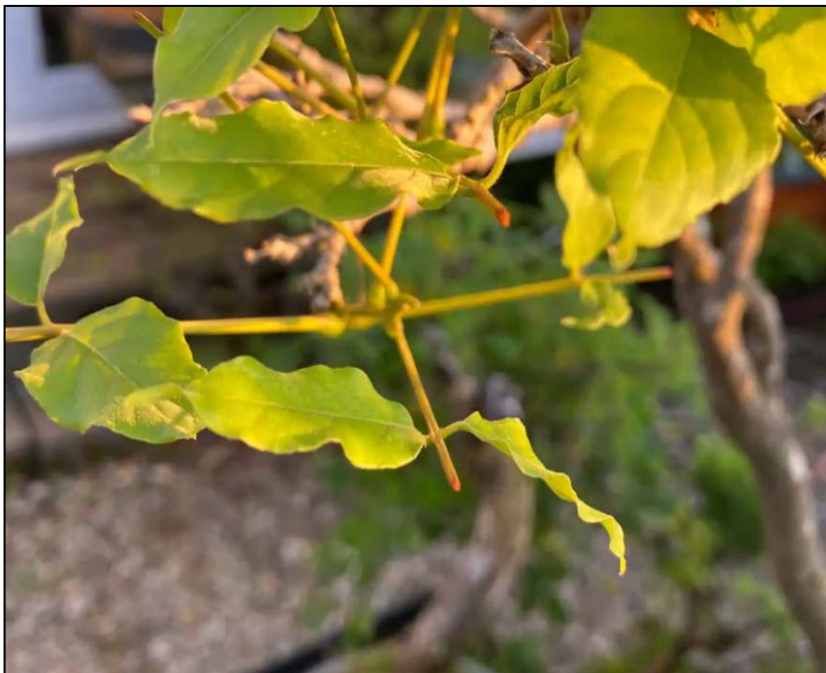
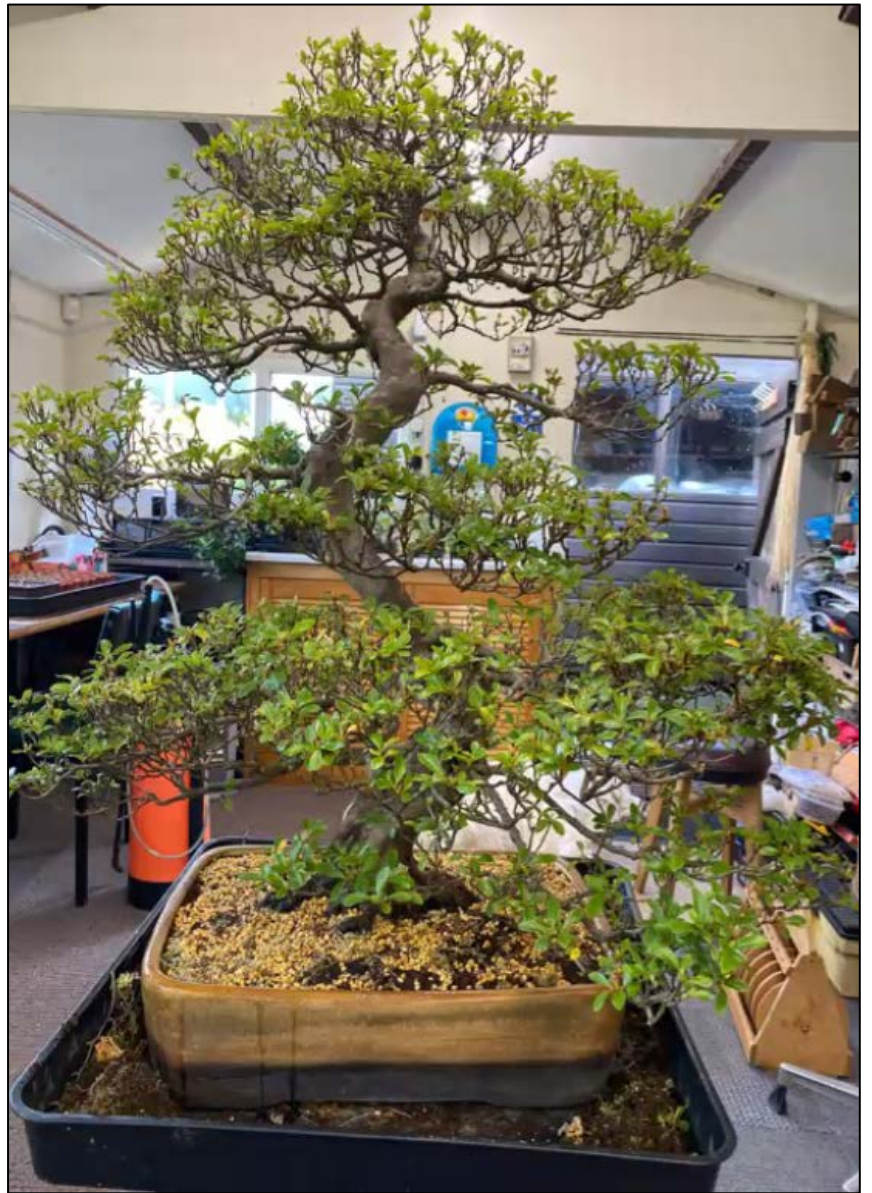
John showed us a huge Trident with a massive nebari, recently trimmed to promote new growth and old scorched leaves removed.



A "tanuki" style Juniper was shedding a lot of foliage – quite normal at this time of year he says, so don't panic if yours are doing the same! Mine are!



This is just one of several Satsuki azaleas that John showed us; flowering was now over and he had trimmed this big beauty back to maintain shape and structure and allow new growth for next year's flowers.



Our discussion turned to Wisteria, which prompted John to rush outside and take some photos of a Wisteria he had just trimmed that day! Trim each leaf back to just two leaflets and this will promote a second flush of growth and increase flower buds for the next year. Standing in water through the summer (the tree that is!) also encourages flowering.

Mike C showed us how he had developed this lovely Blue Atlas Cedar, now starting to show some character



Plus some more general shots of trees displayed in his garden.



We spent some time discussing Mike's White Pine, in particular what to do with the primary branch which is just a bit too dominant. Don't do anything drastic just yet, just bring it along to a workshop meeting soon...and then perhaps we'll get drastic!



**Tony M** bought this Yew, originally owned by John Pitt, at auction. All agreed, it needs a proper pot!



**Ade** Rowan is a bit tricky. Decent back budding for ramification needs quite severe pruning – and that leaves scars that never seem to heal. This one has been knocking about on my benches for 40 years! Looking at it recently I decided some improvement was needed. I took off the thick trunk on the left which then gives more movement to the tree. The wound would take more years to heal than I have left, so I carved it into a hollow instead.



Pyracantha are prone to Pyracantha Scab and two of mine have been suffering from this fungus. It can be treated with anti-fungal such as Roseclear but John T added that complete defoliation in February helps control it. Having read up a little since, it overwinters in old leaves, hence the benefit of defoliation before new growth.





**Nigel** had no trees to show us this time but has gone one better and made his own website so that we can all see his bonsai and his garden. You'll find them at [giftrees.co.uk/Garden](http://giftrees.co.uk/Garden) and it's certainly worth a look!

Fingers crossed that we can meet at our usual venue in August. The committee will be discussing this and we'll notify you as soon as a decision has been made.

Ade