



---

## SOMERSET BONSAI SOCIETY

---

### Bonsai Newsletter June 2023



Our June meeting started with a long overdue presentation of our new Tree of the Month cup for 2022, the winner being long-standing member Richard Morgan. The cup was originally awarded to us when we won a show several years ago. Cathy kindly retrieved it from an ex-member and now it is polished up and fully engraved with winners going back to 2015. Just think, your name could be on the cup next year, so keep on bringing those entries for Tree of the Month. And don't forget, it's not just about winning; the trees encourage discussion and banter during our meetings.

Once a year, our usual Tree of the Month competition is replaced by the President's Challenge. This year John Trott had set us a slightly cryptic task! "Bonsai on three levels" left some scratching their heads, but resulted in 4 very different interpretations.





And the winner was – Brian Clowney with his interpretation consisting of three different sizes of Chinese Elm. Daddy, mummy and baby all beautifully presented. Well done Brian!

Ade's interpretation was three small Chinese juniper planted on a rock – at three different levels of course.



The owner of the third entry remains a mystery to me! This wouldn't have happened if Alistair had been there! Anyway, a nice little maple with three apices at different levels.



Finally, Richard M's entry was a pot with three different sorts of tree. Unfortunately, and again in Alistair's absence, we failed to get a photo. Sorry Richard!



### The mini-auction

In a slight change to our listed programme we held a mini-auction. We had been contacted by a man from Weston who is shortly moving abroad and wanted to find homes for his modest collection. John Trott, our usual auctioneer stepped in and very soon a dozen trees had new homes and around £120 was raised for charity. Big thanks to Richard P who took the trip to Weston to collect the trees.



### Member Tree Critiques



So, on to the main event of the evening – a critique by John and Ade.

Graham's rather top heavy larch prompted Ade and John to wield a pair of branch cutters to get a better balance and trunk line



The advice for Tony M's Wisteria was to just let it grow and thicken up.



This very tall Silver Birch had lots of knuckles down the trunk where many branches have been removed in the past. Several solutions were offered, all involving ever greater amounts of trunk being removed!



It looks like I've fallen asleep here! I'm sure that I hadn't but...I'm now at a complete loss as to what type of tree and who it belonged to - or even what we advised.

John and I passed comment and advice on several more trees but in Alistair's absence we didn't get photos of them.



John had to leave early leaving me in the hotseat.

Michael's hawthorn would look better if all of the branches swept over and down in the same direction. It also looked in need of a good feed.



Another interesting hawthorn. After twiddling this one around a few times we arrived at a much better front that showed off the trunks very nicely.





Last up was Tony M's group of oaks. He was very relaxed about me getting busy with the branch cutters – you can see from the photo that a lot came off!

Mostly this was from the top to give a better balance and allow light to the lower and weaker branches.

Apologies if your tree didn't make the report, or if I've got names wrong! Although Nigel kindly took some photos, it's clear that we really need Alistair to keep tabs on trees and people!

And finally . . . . .

Next month we meet on 12 July for a summer workshop "What to do with all that summer growth"

Finally a reminder that we will be putting on a display at the Blackmore Vale Bonsai Group show on 25 June at Charlton near Shaftesbury. Several clubs will be there along with traders, demonstrations and a fish and chip van! Definitely worth a visit so put the date in your diary – I hope to see you there [Blackmore Vale Bonsai Group - Home](#)

Keep well and keep watering!

Ade