



SOMERSET BONSAI SOCIETY

Bonsai Newsletter May 2024



Ade's Kifu size Katsura. Pictures don't do it justice; you need to see it in the flesh.

Welcome to the May meeting report. This will be a short one as we spent the entire meeting preparing our trees for the upcoming Summer Show at Willowbrook Garden Centre.

A selection of bare root trees, kindly donated by Ashridge Nurseries was made available.



Members brought along twenty-five trees to work on and I have to say everyone Knuckled down to the task of "Pimping their Bonsai". Weeds were weeded, shoots were shortened, dead leaves and flowers removed and pots cleaned.

Ade also brought along a selection of Bare rooted deciduous trees that have been donated to the Society by Ashridge Nurseries. These are offered to members for a small donation to Society funds and have proved very popular. Hopefully in years to come we will see some of these trees developed into fine bonsai and who knows they may even make it to the show!

In a departure from previous years, Ade asked members, who intended to show trees at the summers show, to bring them along to this meeting so that we could get a better idea of what would be available to display and start thinking about how best to organise the trees.



Pam and Jon deep in bonsai chat.



John working on his Chinese Elm

As this is a "club" show, members are welcome to display any of their trees irrespective of the level of development. So, we usually get a variety of bonsai ranging from starter trees to those that have been exhibited at National shows.



Dave, Roger and a show ready Hornbeam.

When we set up the display, we have a “top table” with five or six large show trees on stands and displayed as they would be at a large show, facing the door so that people entering the marque get a bit of a “Wow” then the rest of the tables mix developed bonsai with those still in training and various accent plants. Hopefully this gives the public a better understanding of what the “World of bonsai” looks like and encourage some of them to give it a go.

Tree of the Month competition 2024 –Summer Show Trees

During tea break, we had our ToTM judging.



Have a look at the Judge’s comments and see if you can match the tree to the feedback.



Geoff's lovely display; Spindle, accent planting and a Trident Maple



Brian's mature Chinese Elm.



Dave's Downy Birch.



Peter's Metasequoia

And the winner of the people's vote is: Brian's Chinese Elm. Well done Brian and I look forward to seeing it in our show. If you would like to read the judge's comments on all the entries then click [here](#).



Geoff, Peter and Ian relaxing after an evening of bonsai prep!

Having judged the ToTM trees, Ade then compiled a list of trees and started thinking how best to organise them. Usually we display 30 – 35 trees, depending on size, so we will need a few more trees. Luckily Ade has been making a note of the trees that members have brought along to previous meeting as was able to plug the gaps.



Pam, A.K.A "The Apprentice" working on a 'Root over Rock Trident Maple'. Look out for it at the show.

Well, that's all for now. Our show is on the May Bank Holiday weekend – 25 to 27 May. So, if you are in the area drop in and say halloo. There will be some wonderful bonsai to look at, bonsai related things to buy, members to chat too and as an added bonus and excellent café on site. Stay and have some lunch or even make a day of it.

Next meeting is on the 12th June and will be a workshop. We also have our weekend bonsai talk and workshop at Monkton Elm Garden Centre on the 8th June (See their website for more details).

The tree of the month will be back, with "Groups and Forest" as the topic.

Till the next time, stay safe and "keep doing bonsai".

Alistair