



SOMERSET BONSAI SOCIETY

Bonsai Newsletter June 2024



Ade's Field Maple group planting, awaiting defoliation.

Welcome to our June meeting report. This month we had a workshop to get all those early summer tasks out of the way. I know it doesn't feel like summer with the fluctuating weather but most of our trees are now getting into some sort of growth pattern. So, time for a bit of pruning, wiring and of course some defoliation on your healthy deciduous trees.



Simon contemplates which branch to remove.



Sometimes it is good to just sit and chat about bonsai!

At a time when a lot of clubs are experiencing a drop in membership it was great to see so many people attending and working on so many different trees. Whilst the internet is a great source of information, some good, some not so good, there is no substitute for getting hands on with living material and seeing how the tree responds to your techniques.



John busy with the scissors.

A good example of this is John, seen in the picture above. John took up bonsai a few years ago and joined our society. Quickly amassing a nice collection of trees, John tries out as many techniques as he can, attends our workshops with a selection of trees to work on and ask for advice on how to progress each one. The result of this is that his trees are maturing nicely as bonsai. It is after all a skill that you have to practice in order to become competent at.

Tree of the Month competition 2024 -Groups and Forests



Brian's Cryptomeria Forest.



Dave G's Hornbeam Forest.



Richard M's Penjing landscape.



Richard P's Ash group.



John's Oak group.



Bob's Chinese Elm group.



Michael's Larch group.



Tony's Dawn Redwood group.

During tea break, we had our Tree of the Month judging.

And the winner of the people's vote is: Michael's Larch group, well done Michael. If you are new to bonsai, have another look at Michael's entry. This has been created from simple hedging material, bought on the internet for a few pounds. With a bit of time, diligent application of bonsai techniques and a fair amount of artistic ability you have a show ready tree. Go on, have a go yourself.

If you would like to read the judges' comments on all the entries then click [here](#).



Michael's Japanese White pine, getting the Ade treatment.

Fresh from winning the "Peoples vote" Michael started work on one of his prized possessions. A Japanese White pine that Michael has been cultivating for a number of years. Time for a bit of a re-style, but what to do? Luckily for Michael, everyone had an idea about the best way to improve it. However, Michael erred on the side of caution and listened to Chairman Ade - wire the whole tree, right out to the tips of the branches and compact the foliage. Great advice and possibly an activity for our August wiring workshop.



Tea break over and everyone is back to work.



In the background, Pam "The apprentice" works on her Literaty Larch group.

Well, that's all for now. Next meeting is on the 10th July and will be a demonstration by Internationally renowned bonsai practitioner Simon Tremblett.

The tree of the month will be back, with "Summer foliage" as the topic.

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

Alistair