



SOMERSET BONSAI SOCIETY

Bonsai Newsletter July 2025



Ade's lovely White Pine group

Welcome to the July meeting report. As I write these words, the rain is lashing down outside after weeks of blisteringly hot weather. The plants in the garden, bonsai and non-bonsai, are showing signs of heat stress, even with the twice/thrice daily watering and I haven't done any pruning, wiring or summer re-potting for weeks. Not the best of years for developing bonsai but hopefully they will survive this and next year will be more amenable to applying bonsai techniques. As the Japanese say; "Winter for showing and summer for growing". But this year I have found it difficult to maintain any sort of schedule for developing my trees. For example, my Larches were pruned at the end of March and should now be ready to prune again, with some of the more vigorous ones having their third pruning. But no, they have all gone into semi-dormancy with little or no shoot production. The needles are still green and they are drinking up the water but not doing anything else. The only exception are the Chinese Elms, they are throwing out shoots everywhere and seem to love the humidity. Shame I only have three, otherwise I could be working on them instead of browsing Japanese show books and gazing at pots on Temu!



Peter showing off his new turntable!

Anyway - enough of my ramblings. What did we get up to at the meeting? This month we had a workshop and a "bring & buy". Members were encouraged to bring along any surplus bonsai stuff and they didn't disappoint. Pots, trees, accent plants and stands etc., all made their way onto the sales table and then off to new homes. I purchased a lovely little Honeysuckle that Chairman Ade had been growing for the last 15 years. It just needs slip potting into a suitable container and then who knows, you might see it in next month's report!

As for the workshop, most members quietly got on with their summer jobs. Lots of weeding, some pruning and tidying up of foliage pads, a bit of wiring and a couple of major branch removals.

Several members brought along problem trees and there was no end of advice and suggestions from members. Ade and John were on hand to assist with the more tricky ones in between working on their own trees. In John's case, this was a lovely Satsuki Azalea that needed de-flowering. You can see this tree in the picture below, look for the greeny/yellow pot!



President and Chairman look on as the work gains momentum!



Bob works on one of his medium size trees.



Brian contemplates, whilst Cathy and Paul compare trees.



Richard M working on a collected Hemlock



David's Japanese Cedar looking good



New member Clive, just happy to be working on bonsai, whilst Steph is busy pruning!



Simon, Bob and new member David contemplate a bit of pruning.



Pam "the apprentice" hides behind her Spindle tree, whilst my Honeysuckle awaits a new pot. Paul contemplates branch removal!

Tree of the Month competition 2025 – Summer foliage

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



Bob's Hawthorn



Mike's C's Beech



Peter's Deshojo Japanese Maple



John C's Deshojo Japanese Maple



Richard M's Birch



Mike H's Deshojo Japanese Maple



Brian's Golden Larch



Tony M's Cedar Brevifolia

And the winner of the people's vote is: Peter, for his lovely Deshojo Maple. Well done Peter.

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

Well, that's all for now. Next meeting is on the 13th August and will be a talk by our Chairman Ade about his "bonsai journey".

Instead of the tree of the month, we will be having the President's Challenge. This is to create a two or three point display as per last month's talk.

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

Alistair