



TAUNTON & SOMERSET BONSAI CLUB

Bonsai Newsletter December 2021



And so another year ends and it is time for our Annual General Meeting. Attendance was down on previous years but a few hardy souls did brave the dark night and we were able to complete all the business required to see the club ready for, what will hopefully be, a year of face to face meetings and plenty of bonsai related activities. Fingers crossed.

Our President, John Trott, thanked everyone for supporting the club through the last two years and gave special praise to Adrian for organising the zoom meetings and generally keeping things ticking over until we could finally get back to holding "normal" meetings. Unfortunately, one of the many changes that the Pandemic has brought about is a drop in the membership of clubs and societies. Many bonsai clubs that used to have a membership in the high two or even three figures are now seeing 20 or less people attending meetings. This then has a knock on effect on the financial stability of these clubs and so it goes on. We have got used to staying home and using the internet as a substitute for human interaction. There is no doubt that the world wide web is a great source of information on every aspect of our favourite hobby but there is

no substitute for getting out and seeing real trees, talking to people "Face to Face", watching demonstrations in real time and actually working on trees with your own hands. So if you are reading this and you have not visited your local bonsai club recently, please do so. Go on the internet, find out when they next meet and go along. You won't regret it and your small contribution will mean that your local bonsai club will be there for future bonsai practitioners.

Following our President's address there was the usual election of club officers. There were a few changes to the committee with two long time members standing down and two new members joining. Nigel W, who looks after our website and Richard P were unanimously voted in by the membership. We also have a change of Chairman. Ade, who for many years has acted as Vice Chairman has now taken over as Chairman. So welcome one and all, you have some interesting times ahead! Next up was the 2022 programme of events. If you are familiar with our new website you will have seen the new programme. We have planned in club meetings for each month, some with guest speakers and others covering appropriate seasonal topics such as repotting and summer maintenance. We also hope to hold our annual summer show at Willowbrook Garden Centre on the 28th and 29th May, Pandemic allowing! Please come along, we look forward to meeting you all again and who knows, you might find a bargain on the sales table.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all

Alistair