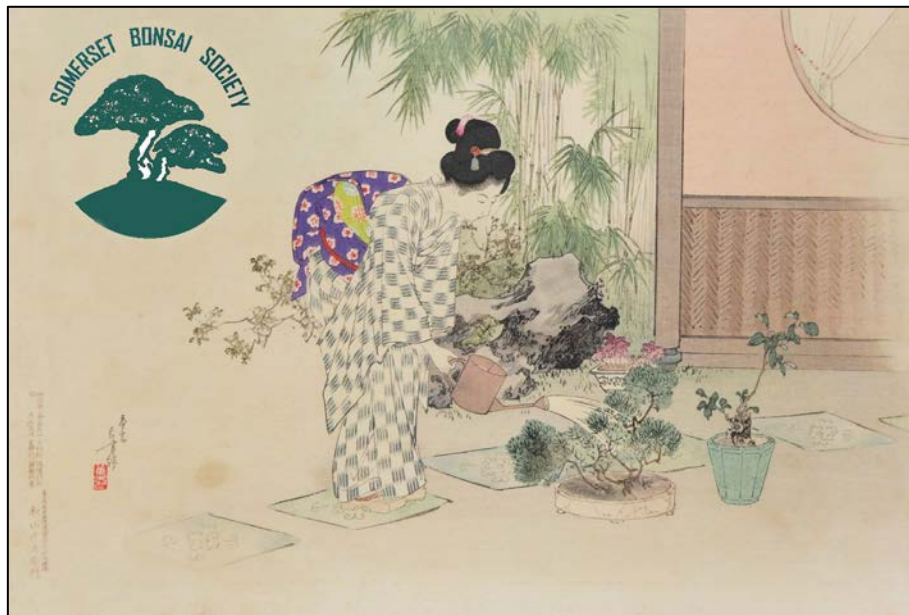




TAUNTON & SOMERSET BONSAI CLUB

Bonsai Newsletter December 2022



Well that is another year over and done with. Whilst the rest of the world struggled to get back to some type of "normal" we in the bonsai community carried on watering, wiring, pruning and contemplating. Eventually winter arrives and it is time for our Annual General Meeting. Attendance was down on previous years but a few hardy souls did brave the foul weather 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 and making it such an enjoyable place to visit. He stated that "You are friendly and welcoming with none of the negative behaviour or backbiting that sometimes goes on in clubs". He also commented on the way that we welcome new members and especially beginners, offering help and advice without any "attitude". The club is also starting to display some nice trees at shows, which adds to the club's reputation. John then discussed the importance of taking any opportunity to learn about bonsai, be that at shows, other clubs or from our guest speakers.

Occasionally, John presents a gift of a bronze okimomo to the member, who in his opinion, has stood out in their support of the club. This year there were two potential candidates and since John could not decide between them he took the unprecedented step of giving one to each of them. To Alistair, Club Secretary, John presented a model of a frog on a reed in recognition of his work as Secretary and especially writing the meeting reports. To Nigel, unfortunately not present at the meeting as he was sunning himself in warmer climes, John presented a model of a snail on a leaf in recognition of his work on the club website and also his participation in getting the meeting reports out into the World Wide Web.



A rare photograph of our Secretary Alistair, accepting his bronze.

Nigel, yours is in the post!

Following our President's address there was the usual election of club officers. There were a couple of additions to the committee, with two new members joining. John C and Kathy B were unanimously voted in by the membership. The rest of the Committee remains the same with our Chairman Ade, looking forward to his second year in office.

Next up we looked at a couple of important changes to the club. Although the club is known as the Taunton and Somerset Bonsai Club, it has always drawn its membership from all over Somerset and the surrounding counties.



Unfortunately, many potential new members assume that the club just focuses on Taunton and for some reason have been put off from joining. So unless they get to talk to a member, we often never see them in person. So the proposal, put to the members was: do you want to change the name of the club to reflect its membership? The answer was a resounding 'Yes'. Following some interesting discussions it was agreed that from now on the club would be known as the Somerset Bonsai Society and that its logo would change to reflect this.

Next we discussed the lack of young people taking up the hobby. It was agreed that we would waive the annual subscription fee for members who are under 18 and that we would look at more ways of encouraging younger members. So if you are under 18 and reading this, why not come along to one of our meeting nights, it's more fun than TikTok, possibly!

Once the main business was out of the way we looked at our 2023 programme of events. If you are familiar with our new web site you will have seen the new programme. We have planned in club meetings for each month and this year we will be having two guest speakers. We will also be holding our annual summer show at Willowbrook Garden Centre on the 27 - 29 May. Please come along, we look forward to meeting you all again and who knows, you might find a bargain on the sales table.

Happy New Year to you all
Alistair