

Local Club Shows

Southend Bonsai Society Display at RHS Hyde Hall Summer Show

For the second year running Southend Bonsai Society had the opportunity to exhibit at The Royal Horticultural Society's Hyde Hall Garden Summer Show. This year the Show ran for five days, from 1 – 5 August, plus a sixth day for set-up; quite a challenge for a small club of only 37 people. However, the members supported the event magnificently. Special mention must go to the Chairman, Dave Smith and his wife, Linda, who were present from start to finish, despite ill health.

We were allocated our own marquee with 15 tables plus a sales table, which raised funds for the Society and enabled us to make a donation to the RHS for hosting our display. Members displayed 19 trees, including white pine, Pyracantha, Black pine, Juniper, Cotoneaster and Ginkgo biloba. The tree that attracted the most attention was Tommy Lee's beautiful 65 year old Acer palmatum dissectum.



Visitors were also fascinated by this attractive example of trident maple, root-over-rock.

The weather was extremely hot; uncomfortable for the members staffing the marquee, affecting visitor numbers. The mornings were very well attended, with a lot of interest in our display, but afternoons were much quieter. Bonsai was also promoted at the Show with a trade stand belonging to Derbyshire Bonsai.

Following the Show, we were pleased to welcome five prospective members at our August monthly meeting. More people either expressed interest or signed up at the Show, so we hope to see additional newcomers in September. Overall we consider our participation at this Show a success and we would be very happy to be invited again next year.

Alison Wheatley

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