

# Twickenham Bonsai Club goes to Bonsai Fest 2026

The TW team drove up to Greenwood Bonsai Studio on Saturday, 21 March and met Corin and Paul Tomlinson at the Nursery. It was a lovely sunny day and we enjoyed seeing the wide range of collected and imported trees for sale on the staging. The new Glasshouse and display area was complete but not yet populated by trees. Kevin Willson and Graham Potter were also viewing the new stock and we enjoyed catching up with them. Next stop was the Newark showground, where we could set up the three tables

Tony Utalowski had booked. Tony, Liz, Nick and Tina had a variety of items to sell including trees, Bonsai books and scrolls. The hall was than larger used in 2025, was filling up with up to 200 traders from across the UK. The largest collection of Bonsai traders in one venue I have seen in this country. TW members helped Mark and Mingchen Moreland to erect the display area with tables, backdrops and coverings. The owners of the preselected trees were eager to set up their displays. At 5.00pm the hall closed for set up and we found the Premier Inn at Newark nearby. An enjoyable evening was spent with TW members' friends and colleagues from across the Bonsai scene based in the North of the UK.

The morning of the Sunday 22nd, we breakfasted at 7.00am to be ready to finalise the TW sales tables and assist others where needed. By 9.00am there was a long line of enthusiasts waiting to get into the show and find a bargain. Adam and Josh, who organised the event, welcomed visitors, and the 1,200 people attending through the day perused the many traders.

The FoBBS, U.K. New Talent Competition was scheduled at 11.00am. Peter Fielding led the proceedings and ensured the competitors were present and ready to commence. Six good quality medium sized Chinese Junipers were supplied by Corin Tomlinson and a draw was taken to select the tree each participant was to work on. The Twickenham club entrants, Victoria Miquel and Chris Hallewell were well prepared, had a plan, and sufficient equipment to do their very best styling option with the material. There were three other entrants taking part, Sam Cousons, Andy Mook and Thomas Bowe. Following a tense three hours, everyone was asked to complete work and leave the area. The Judges were Caz Scott and David Cheshire, both well qualified professionals who came to the same decision. Andy Mook from South Yorkshire Bonsai Club had produced the best image from the material and won overall. He will be representing the U.K. at Slovakia for the European Bonsai Association final on the 11 April 2026. Scott Winnard filmed the proceedings and these can be seen on his "Let's Do Bonsai" YouTube Channel. All the contestants did a great job with the junipers and deserve a special mention for putting themselves through the competition process and with dedication representing their clubs.

There were some excellent Bonsai displays from participants including Corin Tomlinson, Tony Tickle, Will Badley, John Armitage, Graham Potter, Mark Moreland, Lee Wilson, Graham Benefer, Joshua Crofts, Lee Wilson, Glyn Holmes and Pablo. This show goes from strength to strength and will soon be seen as the largest venue hosting a Bonsai event in the United Kingdom.

Chris Durne  
Twickenham Club Member