



REDDITCH BONSAI

EDITION OF JANUARY 2021.

EDITOR'S REMARKS.

First of all Angela and I would wish you a Happy New Year in the hope that 2021 develops into a better year than 2020 proved to be!

As I write this there is still no prospect whatsoever of our being able to meet face to face in Solihull or Redditch, although Wes has heard from the secretary at Webheath that we are still "on their books" for Thursday evenings.

Our "fare" is still therefore limited to Zoom meetings and you will be aware that the timing of these has changed, so that they will now be held on the first and third Thursdays of the month ONLY. Our first event in January will therefore be on Thursday 7th January and will feature a presentation by RAMMON HAMERS from Uttoxeter, as previously billed, who was due to present to us at Solihull in the Autumn. The subject of his presentation will be:-

PINES – especially SCOTS PINES - from YAMADORI to FINISHED ARTICLE.

Our second meeting in January, on the 21st, will be a GARDENER'S QUESTION TIME, when you will have the opportunity to put questions to other participating members. This is for GARDENING ONLY as our very own DAVID CHESHIRE is ready and willing to field your BONSAI related questions at any time. Just let me know.

Our thanks should be extended to ALEX WATT who has choreographed the Zoom evenings for us thus far and to those members who have gone the extra mile and presented interesting talks/events. Our last event was a QUIZ prepared/presented by RUSSELL ANDREWS and it was indeed an excellent evening. Although I came last Angela at least has a nice new wooden spoon for the kitchen!

BONSAI TIP OF THE MONTH.

Take time to admire all the bonsai related Christmas presents you may have received!

Make a New Year resolution to join us on Zoom if you haven't already done so. The month of January is good for grafting – well towards the end at any rate. No-one has requested that I try and organise a Zoom talk upon this subject however. There is still time. Let me know.

Winter wash with Mortegg or similar in accordance with manufacturer's instructions or advice tendered by Malcolm Hughes.

GARDENING TIP OF THE MONTH.

A friend of mine rang the other day and asked how to propagate LAUREL. Well, if you must, here's how. At this time of the year it's a case of taking hardwood cuttings about a foot long. Remove the leaves and cut the bottom of the stem just below a leaf node. Open a narrow slit trench in a quiet part of the garden. Fill the trench best you can with horticultural sand. Plunge the cuttings into the trench leaving 3 to 4 inches showing. Firm in. Don't let them dry out and firm again after any frost. There's no need to cover, but I suppose you could if you wish. The cuttings should have rooted by the Autumn when they can be potted on, so patience is called for!

If you are thinking of investing in some new GLADIOLI for 2021 remember that the idea that the largest corms are best is quite erroneous. A young plump corm is much better than an older, flatter corm with a broad root base.

Here's how to refresh old plant labels rather than throw them away. All you need is a spray can of paint of a light or bright colour. Clean the labels and lay them close together on a piece of wood/plank. Spray. Job done. You could do the other side as well if you wished! Not a big saving but every little helps!

TEANAH'S NOTES.

7th December

Photographing Bonsai - Judith Davies

Why?

Record Shots – Track Progress – Starting points - seedling/ cutting etc.

Identify faults or problems – Photos can highlight. e.g. gaps between branches, stray branches. Take different aspects of trees to help identify front/ back.

How?

Equipment

Camera (any)/ tablet/ iPad/ smart phone

Table or stand

Background - plain (fabric, wall)/ non-reflective/ crease free/ no distractions especially if using a wall. Dark may be better than light colour but take care with bits of fluff!

Lighting – shadows & reflections – take care outside when sunny! Flash/ spotlights are too harsh. Try to keep it natural.

Tripod (not essential) but helps with:

Focus – most cameras will auto focus/ avoid camera shake. *Stability* *Exposure*
– automatic cameras

Composition – portrait or landscape? Framing. Keep in straight. Don't look down. Avoid 'distractions' like things hanging down, patterns, pipes. Don't have your tree too close to your background. Perspective height? Straight/ front on with some soil/ pot top visible.

Post processing

Some errors can be edited within computer programs - Cropping, straightening, exposure.

Thank you, Judith!

Editor's note

I have now contracted Judith to continue this series with a talk about the procedures last mentioned above. It will take place on the third Thursday of February, the 18th.

I also note a distinct lack of offers from you to provide an evening's entertainment. Let it be another one of your New Year Resolutions?

ITEM AVAILABLE.

Although I am aware that very few people nowadays, if any, use 35mm film to take slides I do have 8 of the boxes that are used to house the slides in cartridges, and the cartridges, of course. Each box has 2 cartridges. Free to a good home. Let me know otherwise they are going in the bin!

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN.

So, winter has arrived - not with a bang, but with a silent overnight blanket of snow! It looks very pretty on the trees and bushes, but not so pretty on the road outside now that the traffic is turning it to slush.

I'm glad that I don't have to go anywhere for a while, the pandemic means that I have plenty of food in the house which will keep me from starving till the snow (and the ice that they are promising us) have all gone.

Here's wishing everyone a very Happy New Year.

Best regards
Judith.

AND A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SPONSOR.

Dear FoBBS Member Club/Society.

I hope this email finds you well and it is delivered with my sincerest apologies for the delay. I am sure you are aware that the year of 2020 has been a very different one to what we could of imagined and I for one, have managed to drop the ball so to speak.

The FoBBS Annual General Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, March 21st, 2021 at 11.00 for 11.30**, following directly on after the Bonsai Boot Sale (pending any restrictions).

It is open to all but only paid up members for 2021 are eligible to vote and each society is entitled to 1 vote.

Important information for all FoBBS Member Societies

Please click here for the FoBBS renewal form for **2021**. Renewals are required before the Annual General Meeting of **March 21st 2021**, to be held at Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Westbourne Road, Birmingham. Click here for directions to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that if you take FoBBS insurance, the year ends on Dec 31st 2019 and your insurance is not valid beyond that point. To ensure continuity of insurance, be sure to renew before Dec 31st 2020/ Jan 1st 2021. If you had the Membership and Insurance for 2020, please note you have a reduced rate for renewal for 2021.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact me on coordinator@fobbsbonsai.co.uk and I will endeavour to get you an answer.

Kind regards.

Rickie
FoBBS Coordinator.

Editor's note. Don't worry. Wes will deal with the financial side of things for both societies, especially as there have been no meetings/events etc to attract an insurance claim of any sort. The matter is under active consideration within the committee.



Here's a picture of Redditch member, Ben Coyne's, trees under snow in a previous bout of wintry weather.

Richard Gilkes,
Editor,
30th December 2020.