



REDDITCH BONSAI

EDITION OF DECEMBER 2022 **EDITOR'S REMARKS.**

This Newsletter will probably be the last of 2022, so, firstly, I want to encourage you all to attend the MBS AGM on 1st. December when decisions may be made in relation to the affairs of the Society for 2023.

There will be a Quiz after the AGM has ended with prizes and which will be hosted by Teanah and Alex.

As we have done in the past we shall support St Mary's Hospice by displaying their Christmas poster which means that you may post a Christmas message thereon instead of sending Christmas cards to other members, as well as perhaps making a donation to this deserving charity. (This will also be the case for Redditch at the next meeting and at the Christmas lunch in December). This of course is entirely voluntary, it's just up to you.

The programme for 2023 at the MBS has been finalised and appears in this edition. I often wonder, in the general absence of comment, requests or suggestions from you, whether the programmes that we offer are to your liking. I am tempted to assume that they are well received but I may be wrong. We, the committee, certainly try to offer a varied programme of events and not just rely on a succession of workshop after workshop to fill the year. The aim of such a varied programme, created with relatively limited resources, is to try and help you to improve your bonsai skills and knowledge, thus helping to improve your trees.

We do try to encourage members to bring trees to the display table at monthly meetings. After all we are a bonsai society. This is another way in which you and your trees can receive help and support from other members and speakers.

We also want to try and improve and increase our exposure to the public by organising demonstrations and such like where and when we can. Your help is needed to identify suitable outlets – so please put your thinking caps on! All this is intended to place the Society in view of the general public but I emphasise that we shall not necessarily be inclined to attend all such events if we do not think some benefit is to be gained. The BTA event in Ryton tends to fall into this category for example. The venue is somewhat remote and as far as the committee can see tends to attract only visitors who are already members of one society or another – the result being that we are unlikely to make a wider impression or garner any new members.

So, after all that, today's little message is that all members can contribute to their society going forward for everyone's benefit including their own.

DATES FOR THE DIARY.

Here are some events that may be of interest to you in 2023:-

- 26th February 2023 - Doncaster Bonsai Experience
- 2nd April 2023 - Bonsai Boot Sale; Birmingham Botanical Gardens

- 16th April 2023 - 4th Expo Bonsai UK Crawley
- 28th - 30th April 2023 - BBC Gardeners World; Beaulieu
- 6th - 7th May 2023 - RHS Rosemore
- 11th - 14th May 2023 - RHS Malvern Spring Festival
- 23rd - 27th May 2023 - RHS Chelsea Flower Show
- 15th - 18th June 2023 - BBC Gardeners World; NEC
- 4th - 9th July 2023 - RHS Hampton Court
- 19th - 23rd July 2023 - RHS Tatton park
- 1st - 3rd September 2023 - BBC Gardeners World Audley End House
- 24th September 2023 - Doncaster Bonsai Show

NEXT YEAR AT THE MBS.

Here are the events that we have planned for 2023. We hope that they will be of interest to you. It's a pretty mixed bag as we think you will agree, but I am particularly pleased that Nigel Saunders has agreed to join us from Canada in July.

January 5 th	Members' Forum	Problem tree
February 2 rd .	D. Cheshire.	Most recent addition
March 2 nd .	Assisted workshop with M Skan and J Haddleton. Tool display	
April 6 th .	Workshop with Bring and Buy/Auction. Spring colour	
May 4 th .	Corin Tomlinson.	Juniper
June 1 st .	Workshop.	Your choice
July 6 th .	Nigel Saunders/Bonsai Zone/Canada/Zoom Tree from abroad	
August 3 rd .	Workshop	Any native species
September 7 th .	D Cheshire.	Show winners
October 5 th .	Malcolm Hughes.	Autumn hue
November 2 nd .	Ian Homer/Walsall Bonsai School	Favourite pot
December 7 th .	AGM/Quiz etc.	Winter image.

The Show secretary, John Ville, is currently liaising with the Botanical Gardens about a date for next year's show. So, watch this space. The Gardens have apparently said that they may be interested in organising bonsai weekends, demonstrations, and collaborations with other societies and groups. We will see how this develops, as this is clearly a first for the Gardens – although it is accepted that the National Collection have organised displays there in the past.

If any of you know of a garden centre or other organisation/group who might be interested in having some input from the MBS then do let us know.

BONSAI TIP OF THE MONTH.

I guess that at this time of the year it's important to make sure that your more tender trees have the protection they need from everything the weather has to throw at them. This may involve simply keeping them under cover and out of the rain, or placing them in a cold greenhouse. Remember that deciduous varieties are not dependent on light at this time of the year and can be placed "out of the way but not out of mind" under a bench or similar. Conifers will need light otherwise their chlorophyll levels will drop dramatically increasing the risk of disease etc.

GARDENING TIP OF THE MONTH.

Don't forget to check the date of your last green bin collection if you subscribe to one – it will possibly save you a trip to the tip!

I had been wondering why the Honesty plants I started earlier this year had not flowered although they had made plenty of leaf. The answer was quite simple. They are really a biennial, so, although I had to move them around on the allotment to make room for the daffodils, they are now looking as if they will produce plenty of bloom next year.

Gladioli should be lifted by now and dahlia tubers can also be brought in to protection unless you take the risk of leaving them in the ground over winter.

Buddleia and autumn raspberries should not be pruned back until next spring but make sure that the wind is not rocking the roots too much. My raspberries are firmly tied to their support wires now. Roses should be pruned however – depending on variety.

PHOTOGRAPH.

I thought that you might like to see the attached photograph of what I think were Junipers of some sort which we spotted on a trip to Madrid some years ago as well as a splendid Acer Palmatum in the garden at home in its autumn coat. (sorry about the bird bath, I got rid of the washing line!)



Cloud pruning in the
Parque del Retiro, Madrid.



Acer Palmatum

COMING UP AT THE MBS.

Please see the note at the beginning of the letter about the December meeting. Don't forget to bring a tree for the table display but I hope that we don't end up with 20 Christmas trees!

The first meeting of the New Year on 5th January is a MEMBERS' FORUM so do come armed with questions, and your problem tree/trees (if any). We will probably have a panel organised to answer questions but no doubt there will be contributions from the floor too.

AND AT REDDITCH BONSAI.

There's a PHOTOGRAPHIC EVENING this Thursday – so do bring a camera and something to snap!

The Redditch lunch takes place on Saturday 10th December at 12.00 noon at the Green Dragon at Sambourne. There will be no meeting at the Village Hall in December.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Richard Gilkes, Ed.,