



REDDITCH BONSAI

EDITOR'S REMARKS.

In the days when the MBS had over 100 members, yes, over 100, it was easy enough for the committee to engage speakers from afar but now, however, with the MBS hovering in the 30's and Redditch with just under 20 active members it is a very different kettle of fish. There is also now the difficulty that there are not that many "recognised speakers" in what you might call the "central belt" of the country so the hiring of speakers from outside the area is now more or less prohibitive given the cost of travel which has to be added to the appearance fee. We therefore hope that you will understand these difficulties faced by your committees. Of course, if you know of anyone who might be able to entertain us at a reasonable cost we should be only too glad to hear of them. Our programmes for 2023 reflect the above constraints but we do believe that we still offer you an interesting if not attractive mix of subjects for the meetings of both societies.

One of the issues discussed at the MBS AGM was the longevity of the existing committee. In other words, and to put it bluntly, several members consider that they have made a substantial contribution to the running and management of the society and that it may be time for some new blood to make a contribution. In fact the same considerations apply equally to Redditch Bonsai as well.

So, members need to be aware that there are going to be "situations vacant" in both societies at the end of next year (2023). This is an issue which is not going to go away either. It is something that has to be faced and every member of both societies needs to consider whether they could offer more to the society in the future. The efforts of the current committees have brought the societies to where they are today. New faces with new initiatives are needed to carry both societies into the future with new ideas. To borrow the words of Lord Kitchener, from an earlier age, "Your society needs you".

ST. MARY'S HOSPICE.

Many thanks for your contributions to the above hospice/charity, which were as follows:-

MBS £21.50

Redditch £39.05

These monies have been delivered to the Hospice in Selly Park.

TREASURER'S NOTE.

Due to receipt of a further cash sum of £30.00 from Robert Walton/the raffle the accounts have been amended to show an increased income/profit of £533.

COMING UP AT THE MBS.

January's meeting will be a "Members' Forum" and the table display will feature "Your problem tree".

The meeting will take a Gardeners' Question Time format and we are pleased to say that David Cheshire and Mark Skan have already agreed to be on the "Panel" answering your questions. We also sincerely hope that Jeremy Haddleton will be able to take part as well.

So, get your thinking caps on and please try and send your questions along to us before the meeting so that they can be distributed to the panel in advance. This will make for a more informative evening I am sure.

HEATING AT MOSELEY CRICKET CLUB.

Following the last meeting, and not surprisingly, I have received some "observations" about the temperature in the meeting room. As a result I have spoken with the Chairman of the Cricket Club about this. He tells me that, and again not surprisingly, they are well aware of the problem that they have with their very old boiler! They are trying to get quotes for a new system but are meeting problems. As a result they are making arrangements to use temporary heaters which will be available at the next meeting and managed by the steward. As a matter of fact the chairman was somewhat embarrassed by all this recently when, following the death of a committee member, the family arranged for their "funeral tea" to be held at the club, with the result that they were all forced to wear their outside coats in order to stay warm during the proceedings!

COMING UP AT REDDITCH.

We have yet to finalise our programme but this should be completed shortly and you will all be informed. I can assure those members who made suggestions that their requests have been carefully noted and acted upon.



This photo was sent in by Paul Gannon (Redditch). I think he found it on Facebook but I know no more than that at the moment. Perhaps you can enlighten us, Paul?

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR.

What a strange month it has been, weather wise! We've had a bit of everything, and far too much of some things – like the torrential rain, the awful freeze, and then the sudden thaw. It's hard to know what to wear and what to do with our trees.

After my minor disaster when the large sycamore fell on my greenhouse, I have at last got a date for its replacement, but it won't be here till the 13th January, which is a Friday – good job I'm not superstitious!

Fortunately, the old one is still standing although minus one large pane of glass, so I have been able to keep some of my trees in it out of the rain.

The problem I then have is what to do with them whilst the old one is being dismantled before the new one comes. Of course, a lot will depend on the weather but in January, one has to be prepared for the worst.

However, I have started to move some of them into my utility room which has necessitated a lot of trips up and down the garden and a flight of steps, great fun! This whole exercise has made me think about reducing my collection – something that I have been considering seriously for some time now, but it is often difficult to part with trees that you have nurtured for 20-30 years. I shall have to make a decision before the Bring & Buy in April. I hope that you enjoy the holidays and I look forward to seeing you again in the New Year.

Judith.

GARDENING TIP OF THE MONTH.

The recent cold snap nearly caught me out but I just managed to get three of my four ecchiums into shelter before the mercury plummeted. Even so, coming so quickly after they had been dug out of the garden and potted up, all three took a complete nose dive and I thought I had lost them. Come the warmer temperatures however the plants have made a welcome recovery, helped by a dose or two of Vitamin B1 which is a useful tonic for distressed plants. The fourth plant, exposed on the allotment, has succumbed I am afraid.

I have also sheltered two Salvia Amistad in the greenhouse as I am never really confident that they are completely hardy.

If you have any plants that are a worry from this point of view, but which are too large to shelter in a garage or greenhouse you can resort to a thick layer of mulch and keep your fingers crossed.

Tulips should be planted out by now.

BONSAI TIP OF THE MONTH.

Don't let plants dry out but equally be wary of overwatering. Don't water if frost is forecast and if trees do get frozen let them thaw out naturally.

I believe that this is a good time to collect scions if you are going to try grafting. I have never tried this myself but if anyone has we would, I am sure, be glad to hear of your exploits.

Winter washing with Mortegg or similar should apparently also be done now. I have never tried this either but if you have I am sure members would be equally glad to hear from you with the do's and don'ts.

THE MBS LIBRARY.

We are pleased to inform you that the Library List is now available to view on the society website. If you want a copy let me know. If you wish to borrow a book then you will need to let Judith know as she holds the physical property!

If you are aware of any book or other publication that you think may enhance the list then do let us know.

Richard Gilkes, Ed. December 28th2022.

STOP PRESS!

Here is the final version of the REDDITCH programme for 2023.

<u>Date 2023</u>	<u>Meeting subject.</u>	<u>Display table.</u>
January 19 th	Member's forum	Problem trees
February 16 th	Mark Skan assisted workshop. Works in progress	
March 16 th	AGM Quiz and Chat.	Accent plants
April 20 th	Malcolm Hughes.	Spring blossom
May 18 th	Workshop	Trees for Botanicals
June 15 th	Design by committee.	Ugly ducks
July 20 th	In house competition	Your entries
August 17 th	Bonsai clinic/Workshop	All show winners.
September 21 st		
Judith/History of Bonsai Bonsai artefacts		
October 19 th	David Cheshire.	Autumn glory
November 16 th	Workshop/Bring and Buy	Sale items
December	Lunch. Date tbf	

Plus:- Garden Visit one weekend afternoon and a trip to Bodenham.

