



## **REDDITCH BONSAI**

Edition of November 2022.

### **NEXT MEETING AT REDDITCH BONSAI.**

Our Redditch timetable provides for a PHOTOGRAPHIC EVENING on the 17<sup>th</sup> November. So, bring along your camera and something to actually photograph! Advance notice of the REDDITCH CHRISTMAS LUNCH – this prestigious event will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> December at The Green Dragon, Sambourne. The MENU will follow in due course.

There will be no meeting at the Village Hall in December.

### **NEXT MEETING AT THE MBS.**

Not having seen him in Solihull for some time, I am pleased to say that CORIN TOMLINSON will be visiting us on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. The table display will be your Favourite Tree – if you can carry it!

N.B. The AGM will take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> December. We have circulated the paperwork relevant to the meeting. This meeting is in many ways the most important of the year and we urge you to attend if you can.

### **PROMOTIONAL EVENTS.**

The committee is always looking out for ideas for events which put the Society before the public and which hopefully might encourage new members to join. If you have any suggestions please send them along/speak to me or the Show Secretary. Some of you may suggest the BTA event at Ryton but the committee have considered this event and decided not to attend as we see the venue as remote and unlikely to garner new members as the vast majority of attendees are already club members/enthusiasts elsewhere. A display table at a garden centre might be a good idea for example so if your local centre is interested let us know.

Suggestions on a postcard please.

## **COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES.**

In an effort to try and interest members in perhaps taking up a position of some sort on the committee we have all prepared a summary of our roles which will explain a little of what goes on “behind the scenes”. The principal task of all members is, of course, to promote the interests of the society. Here are the details:-

### **Chairman:-**

The role involves managing monthly meetings and introducing guest speakers. Chairing occasional committee meetings as necessary. Chairing the Annual General Meeting. Receiving and dealing with queries from the general public.

**Secretary:-** General dogsbody, dealing with all correspondence, emails, telephone calls and other general enquiries received from members and the public, organising the society’s programme, contacting speakers, organising the AGM, organising committee meetings, preparing all minutes following meetings, liasing with the chair of the meeting venue over any tenancy issues save the rent, keeping in contact with members who have not attended for some time, keeping the committee in order and supporting them where necessary. Preparing and publishing the Newsletter.

**Treasurer:-** Collect all Subs, raffle, Tombola , visitor’s monies, Bank all monies. Pay all bills, rent, insurance, speakers, printing, web site, postage, and stationery.  
Keep all this information on a spread sheet, and provide a balance sheet at the AGM.

### **Membership Secretary:-**

The primary role of the Membership secretary is to respond to new member enquiries and give all the information required to satisfy their requests. The membership secretary will also encourage potential new members to attend their first free meeting as a visitor. They also promote membership of the Society.

The Membership Secretary will also accept new and renewing membership payments, keep accurate records and ensure that payments are passed to the Treasurer for banking in a timely and regular manner. Finally, the role also involves activities toward membership retention.

### **Main responsibilities**

To actively promote the benefits of membership to non-members.

To respond to new member enquiries in a timely and efficient manner, ensuring that potential members are directed to the website and given all the information required to satisfy their requests.

To encourage potential new members to attend their first free meeting as a visitor.

To promote membership of the Society.

To maintain membership details and have access to membership contact data list; and provide the information to any committee members that request it.

To ensure compliance with GDPR with regards to storage and use of members' details.

To report to the committee any changes in contact details of members as they become known.

To develop an annual membership report for the AGM giving an overview of membership numbers and relevant information about attendance.

To keep the committee updated on membership numbers and relevant information about membership figures.

### **Show Secretary:-**

Main responsibilities.

Running the main annual show and any other similar events

Liaison with show venue, currently the Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Booking a suitable date, agreeing the facilities required, including table layout.

Arranging early morning access, signposting around the gardens on the day and setting up the banner, and recovering it at the show end.

Liaison with traders, space requirements, access etc.

Raffle arrangements, table space, tickets etc.

Liaison with the judge before and during the show

Liaison with speakers, and arranging demonstrations. Wider publicity, flyers etc.

Ensuring the trophies will be available

On the day directing the volunteers, early morning setup, after-show breakdown and final placing of trees in competition.

### **Website Administrator, Marketing & PR Liaison -**

**'Job' Description:** To provide Website Administration and support for Midland Bonsai Society (MBS) to continue/maintain its presence online.

#### **(Main) Duties, Roles and Responsibilities:**

Be a first port of call for all things Website related for;

[www.MidlandBonsai.org](http://www.MidlandBonsai.org)

[www.MidlandBonsaiSociety.co.uk](http://www.MidlandBonsaiSociety.co.uk)

To make necessary payments to maintain the whole website

Administrate/Edit the Website as required - keep up to date with software updates, plugins, FREE from SPAM etc [keep regularly updated - Publish Newsletters, Articles, Photos, Notices etc]

To maintain (keep up to date) a 'Little Black Book' of Media Contacts

Contact various Third Parties such as:

Look Local FREE Yellow A5 Business Directory circulated and distributed to approx. 35,000? homes/households in Solihull each and every month  
Solihull Observer, News/Times?

The Solihull Index

Solihull Central My Magazine

My Solihull Central

QuickFindDirectories.co.uk

In Solihull

### **MBS PROGRAMME FOR 2023.**

The following subjects have been pencilled in for next year. We are still, of course, open to suggestions. Here are the first thoughts, in no particular order:-

Ian Homer/Walsall Bonsai School and Nursery (recc. By David Cheshire)

Zoom to Canada.

D. Cheshire

Assisted Workshop.

2 x workshops.

Workshop with Bring and Buy thrown in.

Corin Tomlinson.

Quiz night.

Malcolm Hughes.

Members' Forum.

AGM and other excitements.

### **BONSAI TIP OF THE MONTH.**

It's probably not too late, given the current temperatures, to give your trees, and any other pots for that matter, a dose of VINE WEEVIL treatment. I use nematodes from the GREEN GARDENER.

One thing to be sure to do is to keep soil surfaces clear of falling leaves and other detritus where adult weevils or other pests might lurk.

### **GARDENING TIP OF THE MONTH.**

DAFFODILS should be planted by now but TULIPS can wait for a few weeks yet. I do not intend planting tulips on the allotment, the squirrels are too fond of them. I

will probably only plant tulips at home in pots. For that matter other spring bulbs can be planted in pots now. I have invested in various forms of allium. Some are going in to the allotment – being of the onion family I don't think the squirrels will go too near them. Finish off the pots with a mulch of gravel and cover them with wire netting or similar.

Take cuttings of SALVIA. Use non flowering shoots and protect from frost in the greenhouse. The common SALVIA is "Amistad" but I intend to expand my stock next year. Monty recommended Salvia "Leucantha". If you intend to leave salvia in the ground over winter do apply a good thick mulch of leaves or similar.



7 different dahlias from the allotment still flowering in October

### **BIG TREES.**

This is more about big trees than little trees but quite interesting, or so I thought. It seems that this year is what they call a 'mast' year, when trees produce far more seeds than usual. It applies more to oaks (and their acorns) and beeches and they generally occur every 5 - 10 years and appear to be quite effective in controlling the population of the creatures that eat the seeds, such as squirrels, mice etc. as in non-mast years there is less food for them to fatten themselves up with in order to survive the winter.

However, I have experienced it with sycamores. I have a sycamore at the bottom of my garden (there were two but one fell down last year) and there are several in the garden that backs onto mine and a few years ago I had an incredible crop of seedlings. I was pulling them out in handfulls. Quite easy when they are small but the ones that secreted themselves behind bushes at the back of the borders for a couple of years were far more difficult.

Anyway, the next few years just produced a more normal quantity, but this year - wow - they are everywhere! We must have had some really strong winds at exactly the right time as most of the seeds are up near the house, front and back, (a long way from the trees) and I have collected several buckets full. But no doubt there will be plenty left for the squirrels and next spring will see another bumper crop of seedlings emerge.

The next few weeks will be spent gathering up the fallen leaves which will go into my newly refurbished container so that they can rot down to make some beautiful leaf mould. It can take quite a long time, especially if the container is in deep shade as mine is, (I love trees but there are too many very large ones around my garden) but it's worth the wait and if you do it every year then you will have a constant supply.

My apologies to those members who already know all about leaf mould and anyone who doesn't have access to a garden full of dead leaves and/or space to store them.  
Judith Davison.

### **AND FINALLY.**

Here is a picture of a CHINESE FOXGLOVE tree, (*Paulownia tomentosa*) which I have grown from seed and is now planted out on my allotment. (Angela is in the picture in order to give some perspective) It's only 2 or 3 years old and has grown like topsy this year. David Cheshire has agreed to collect it from me and use it as a specimen tree at his nursery. *P. tomentosa* is a broad, medium-sized deciduous tree with handsome ovate or shallowly-lobed leaves to 25cm in length. Fragrant, light lilac-purple flowers open in spring before the leaves appear.



Richard Gilkes, Ed., 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022.

