



REDDITCH BONSAI

Edition of July 2023.

Show report sent to UKBA.

Report upon the Society's Annual Show held at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham, on Sunday 11th June 2023.

And in association with Redditch Bonsai.

Society members assembled at an early hour (8.00 a.m.) to prepare the Ballroom of the Botanical Gardens for their annual show although the key holder of the gardens had obviously slept in since he didn't turn up until after 8.30 a.m. which did put us back somewhat!

The Show's make up consists of various competition classes from Mame to Master Class coupled with awards for the Supreme Tree, the Most awards of Merit, and Best Tree and Pot combination.

The visiting public are also asked to vote for their favourite tree, the Keith Kirtland Trophy in memory of a former Chairman, now sadly deceased. This award also allows us to figure out how many visitors passed through the show during the day.

Competition results will be published on the Society's website in due course (www.midlandbonsai.org)

The display of trees was also supported by two visiting traders. This year we welcomed DAVID CHESHIRE BONSAI of Baginton, (David being well known to us as he is also a member!) and FUNKY FISH CERAMICS from Crewe who specialise in individually made smaller pots for accent plants and smaller bonsai specimens.

There is also a popular TOMBOLA and, during the day there were two presentations to visitors about various bonsai related topics. Our aim was to try and show that you don't need to have a large bank account to enjoy bonsai. Consequently Judith Davison's talk "Bonsai on a Budget" was quite apposite. Using this approach we hoped to encourage an influx of new members especially as one of our newer members brought along a large number of starter trees from his collection in order to emphasise this point.

Our members produced an excellent and varied show of trees which I believe that the public enjoyed and appreciated. Our photo library supplied in conjunction with this article will demonstrate that.

We have now been holding our Show at the Botanical Gardens for many years and are deeply indebted to the management of the Gardens for allowing us the use of their facilities. We were indeed pleased to hear that the Gardens have been given a very considerable cash grant to enable them to carry out lots of repairs and renovations to the infrastructure. It will indeed be interesting to see the plans when they are finalised.

We are also grateful to Birmingham's Radio WM and presenter Molly Green who carried out a short interview with me on the Saturday before the show, thus enabling me to "advertise" the event to a much wider audience than we would otherwise have been able to reach by other means and which would no doubt have involved not inconsiderable cost in printing. What was more impressive was that Molly actually read out my letter of thanks on air on the following Saturday!

Richard Gilkes. Secretary.

The Show Results.

Class 1. Mame.

1. Wes Pinfield.
2. Judith Davison.
3. Wes Pinfield.
4. Highly recommended. (HR) Judith Davison.

Class 2. Starter trees.

1. 2. 3. & HR Brian Cooke.

Class 3. Shohin.

1. David Attwood.
2. Wes Pinfield.
3. Junior Parris.
4. HR Judith Davison.

Class 4. Groups.

1. Mark Skan.
2. Richard Gilkes.
3. David Collins.
4. HR Junior Parris.

Class 5. Landscape and Rock.

1. David Collins.
2. Judith Davison.
3. James Thornton.

Class 6. Chuhin.

1. Mark Skan.
2. Ian Lawrence.
3. Judith Davison.
4. HR Junior Parris.

Class 7. Open Class.

1. Ian Lawrence.
2. Ian Lawrence.
3. Ian Lawrence.
4. HR James Thornton.

Class 8. Master Class.

1. Judith Davison.
2. Judith Davison.
3. Junior Parris.
4. HR Junior Parris.

Supreme Tree of the Show. Ian Lawrence.

Most Awards of Merit. Judith Davison.

People's Tree of the Show. Judith Davison.

Best Tree and Pot Competition. Mark Skan.

As far as The People's Tree is concerned Teanah reports that there were 227 votes cast overall. This allows us to assess how many people visited the show. This year Teanah says that there were a lot of people who did not bother to take a voting slip. She was often too busy with the Tombola to be able to manage giving out slips to visitors. Accordingly it is more difficult, this year, to be sure exactly how many people visited the show. You will have to make your own assessment.

The Show Secretary will please note that Teanah's request is that for next year's show some person/persons should be specifically asked to be responsible for handing out the voting slips at the front door.

Please note that we have not included any pictures from the show here because:-

1. We have already sent you the video received from Junior (thanks Junior), AND
2. There are photos on the website that you can view at your leisure.

ALSO, we have had a communication from Mark Moreland at the UKBA who had been having great trouble downloading the photos of the show, to accompany an article which we had written, and that had been sent to him by Alex and/or Judith. Although he eventually managed to sort things out he has asked anyone sending photos in future to send them as an attachment to an email or by Whatsapp or Facebook.

COMING UP AT THE MBS.

On Thursday of this week we hope to make contact once again with Nigel Sanders in Canada. He is going to talk to us, via Zoom, about:-

1. How trees in his part of the world fared during and after the winter, and
2. Which types of tree are best for growing as bonsai in his part of the world.

The table display is "Trees from around the World"

As I write this Teanah and Alex are making arrangements with Ben, Steward at the Cricket Club, to make sure that the Zoom facility can be shown on the big screen in the meeting room as Ben has offered the use of the Club's projector for the evening.

The August meeting will be a Workshop.

COMING UP AT REDDITCH.

This month's meeting on 20th July features the society's "in house" competition. Unless you hear from us to the contrary please assume that the classes will be the same as those at the MBS Show . If you don't have those details let us know as soon as possible.

We had a very poor turn out for the June meeting, with, as far as we can remember no apologies. We hope that you will make a more determined effort to attend in July.

GARDENING TIP OF THE MONTH.

Continue sowing biennials for next year in the greenhouse, including foxgloves, delphiniums, honesty and wallflowers.

It's your last chance to sow beetroot and carrots for an autumn harvest, as well as French and Runner Beans for a late crop.

Sow Pak Choi this month, which often bolts when sown before midsummer

Think about planting up "Christmas" potatoes for winter harvests.

Sun-loving herbs like basil, coriander and dill can all be sown outside now.

BONSAI TIP OF THE MONTH.

Make sure that all your pine candles have been pinched by now.

We know that it's recommended that watering is done early and/or late in the day, but, if the tree needs water then water whatever the time of day. We suppose you could then move the tree into a sheltered spot rather than leaving it in the full glare of the sun.

Think about leaf defoliation. We have had plenty of advice about this at the meetings recently.

FROM THE CHAIR – LAST BUT NOT LEAST!

The joint annual show is over for another year, and I have to say thank goodness it is only once a year as it involves a lot of effort for a lot of our members, so, I would very much like to thank everyone who pitched in to help make the show a success. And although we experienced a few hiccups, it *was* generally a success with lots of beautiful trees on display and everyone seemed to enjoy it (apart from the start when we kept hanging around waiting for the back gate to be opened).

A full report from Richard is included here and has also been posted on the UK Bonsai Association's website so I won't elaborate here any further.

I have to say that I think that the UKBA are doing a good job keeping us abreast of forthcoming events and publishing reports of shows; also, they give regular advice regarding seasonal care of trees.

The UKBA has had a lot to say about people losing trees recently. I have only had one casualty which I can't account for – I don't know if it was the weather or some other unidentified problem but I was very sad as it was a small cotoneaster that I was very fond of. I do hope that none of you have lost any trees. The weather is so unpredictable these days – we have just experienced the warmest June for years and then, suddenly it's gone much cooler, but we still haven't had much rain so watering is still a regular necessity.

Judith.

That's all for this month folks – see you on Thursday at the MBS.
Richard Gilkes, Ed. 4th July 2023.

