



## **REDDITCH BONSAI**

### **Edition of May 2023.**

#### **THE SHOW.**

Various members of the committees are having their annual panic about support for the show, or as they see it, lack of support. We, however, know that you will all turn up on the day to ensure that the event is a success.

We have hopefully organised an "appearance" if that's what you do on the radio, on Radio WM on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June on Molly's early morning show at about 8.40 a.m. I think.

If you wish to park at the Gardens free of charge you will need to let John Ville have your vehicle registration number asap. John is at [javille@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:javille@hotmail.co.uk) His telephone number is 07865 189776. He will then obtain your pass for you.

Our "TOMBOLA LADY", Teanah, will not be at this week's meeting. Don't let that stop you bringing any further gifts that you have for her stall, however. They will be gratefully received.

#### **SHOW UPDATE**

By John Ville.

So far there has been a disappointing response to the call for trees, in competition or on display. Whilst I recognise that it's been a tough year, and many trees are not at their peak, please take another look at your benches and try to bring some trees along.

Setting up, we shall need volunteers to help set up the tables and arrange the trees, please try to support the club, from about 8:00 am onwards.

Car Parking, the Botanical Gardens will issue parking passes to exhibitors and traders, so please don't forget to send me your car registration information before the month end, in order to give the garden team ample time to prepare our passes.

Now that the bank holiday is out of the way I will be setting up our banner at the gardens in the next few days, please do your bit to get the word out on social media, community notice boards etc.

Who currently is looking after the Midland and Redditch signs please let me know and bring them along on the 11th

Those of you who won trophies at last years event please hunt them out, give them a polish and remember to bring them along to the show, or even better on Thursday.

Teannah and the Tombola team are still eager to receive your donations to the prize stash, bring them along on the day or at the next meeting.

Let's have another great show,

John Ville  
Show Sec.

### **David Cheshire**

Here are some notes made in relation to David's presentation at the Society in February. We hope that you may find them useful. I recently asked David how Chelsea had gone for him this year after last year's success. He told me that unfortunately he had had to pull out of the show due to a problem with nematodes in imported trees. He has had to liquidate several specimens as a result. Like Arnie, however, he says he "will be back"!

### **Japan**

- ✓ Bonsai is becoming a dying art in Japan itself. There has been a decline in the quality and quantity of trees.
- ✓ Some species are banned for import due to pests and diseases. Bonsai is only allowed to be imported if grown in proper medium, in pot, in quarantine.
- ✓ Potters are ageing and pop are getting smaller.
- ✓ Shinji Suzuki Nursery and Taikan Bonsai Museum in the north of Japan - worth a look if you're travelling!

Check it out here:

<https://www.bonsaiempire.com/inspiration/bonsai-japan/shinji-suzuki-taikan>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qbqxFlAorw>

## **Trees**

- ✓ Trees should be grown naturally and shaped by nature.
- ✓ Wind can dry out trees more quickly.
- ✓ When it is hot, increase the humidity around the tree. Do not increase the amount of water to the roots.
- ✓ Naturally use light and movement with repositioning of trees in pots. You don't need to use wire.
- ✓ If you do use wire, hook around the pot as this reduces damage to the branches themselves.
- ✓ Trees will live longer if they are slow grown, naturally within their own environment. Fast growing produces less dense wood and will die younger. Control the water...
- ✓ Choose pots that are rough inside for roots to have something to hold on to. Also be aware of drainage holes. Keep cuttings humid - surround them with polythene. They need humidity, controlled environments and temperatures.
- ✓ Dormant trees still produce roots...

## **GARDENING TIPS OF THE MONTH.**

Don't set out your outdoor tomatoes until all risk of frost has passed. The current cool northerly/easterly winds are a good substitute for frost if you ask me. When you eventually get them in to the ground set them a little lower than they have been growing in the pots in the greenhouse. More beneficial roots will then be produced. Whatever you do don't cut back the leaves of your daffodils or even tie them up in to a "tidy" knot. Just leave them to die back naturally. You can give the bulbs a good feed if you wish.

Net fruit bushes and strawberry plants when the fruit starts to develop.

"No mow May" has meant that we have just cut the grass in the garden for the first time. This has allowed grasses and flowers to develop and hopefully set some seed. You could leave patches unmown if you wish.

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

Remember that the show is scheduled for Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June. Do support your societies in any way that you can. After all it's only once a year! See John Ville's contribution further on.

## THIS MONTH AT THE MBS.

This Thursday's meeting will be a workshop, thus giving you an opportunity to make final adjustments to your trees intended for the show. The Table Display will be a tree/trees of your choice.

Next month Alex will be managing a connection with Nigel Sanders in Canada. More about that later but the presentation will be via the TV in the meeting room, so, turn up as usual if you will!

## COMING UP AT REDDITCH BONSAI.

The June meeting of the society will be an evening spent designing a tree and the material will be provided. Just how many trees will be decided in due course. If, however, you have a tree which you think would be a good subject for such an evening then do let us know so that arrangements can be made for you to bring it along as well, or indeed instead of the provided material.

## MALCOLM HUGHES.

Malcolm Hughes's recent visit to Redditch was of much interest to all who were in attendance. He spoke firstly about trees which were perhaps more suitable for use as bonsai and then moved on to talk about developments in judging. Here are the notes that he provided following the meeting. Again we hope that you find them useful.

<b>BRANCHES</b>	<b>Distribution:</b> <b>Ramification:</b> <b>Bark:</b> <b>Jins/ sharis:</b>	<b>Positioning of branches</b> <b>Extent of fine branch development</b> <b>Quality of wiring (if present) and lack of wire marks</b> <b>As appropriate to the tree – give aged appearance</b>
<b>FOLIAGE</b>	<b>Leaves:</b> <b>Blemishes:</b> <b>Size:</b>	<b>Horticultural perfection</b> <b>Evidence of disease, windburn etc.</b> <b>In proportion to the tree</b>
<b>SOIL / SURFACE DRESSING</b>	<b>Well finished:</b> <b>Surface:</b>	<b>Clear of weeds:</b> <b>Appropriate surface cover e.g. moss or fine akadama</b>
<b>TRUNK, ROOTS &amp; NEBARI</b>	<b>Trunk:</b> <b>Root base:</b> <b>If a Rock planting:</b>	<b>Appropriate taper</b> <b>Well or badly distributed as surface roots (nebari)</b> <b>Roots give natural impression of having grown naturally (clasped) to the rock.</b>
<b>POT</b>	<b>Shape &amp; Style:</b> <b>Placement:</b> <b>Size:</b> <b>Colour</b>	<b>Appropriate to the tree (species and style)</b> <b>Tree correctly positioned within pot</b> <b>Proportional to the tree(s) , not over or under potted</b> <b>Appropriate to species</b>
<b>AESTHETIC QUALITY – overall impression and quality of presentation, material, character and style.</b>	<b>Could be a subjective judgement but reflecting overall impression of the tree within the pot or displayed on a tray. Overall sense of balance and harmony.</b> <b>Stands – marked on whether required or not at specific show.</b> <b>If present, appropriateness to tree.</b> <b>Accent plants – as above.</b>	