



REDDITCH BONSAI

Edition of September 2023.

EDITOR'S REMARKS.

We have now returned from our holiday at our Irish estate where the weather was much kinder to us than it was with you here by the look of it. We must say that it's a pity we were not there for this weekend and the week following as the weather has produced something of an Indian Summer by the look of it. Nevertheless, despite the long journey we have returned in good fettle complete with a large sack (25kg) of porridge for our winter breakfasts and a boot full of eating and cooking apples – all completely organic of course. Whilst there (the house is near Waterford in the valley of the River Suir) we ventured west to visit an area known as The Burren. This is a truly vast area of limestone pavement in north Clare edging up to Galway Bay. Spectacular scenery to be enjoyed. It's now back to reality as autumn and winter approach!

A cautionary tale. Over the past many years we have used an automatic watering system for maintenance of our trees and other potted plants whilst we have been away from home. We have always installed new batteries in the devices used before going away. This year we were away in early May and one system was in use but we did not renew the battery in it before we went away again in mid August. The result was that this battery failed with just a couple of days to go before we returned. Fortunately our daughter, who lives in Birmingham, visited the house to check on post etc and was eagle eyed enough to spot the problem so nothing came of the failed battery.

On the question of watering I must say that I felt that the suggestion in the UKBA bulletin that holidaymakers might get another club member to do the job was somewhat hopeful. Not that anyone would not be willing but the thought of that member visiting up to twice a day for up to 3 weeks was, I think, really not a viable proposition.

REDDITCH BONSAI ANNUAL SHOW RESULTS, 2023

Class	1st	Tree no.	2nd	Tree no.
Novice/Starter	David Haw	13	Chris Brown	11
Mame	Judith Davison	7	David Collins	19
Shohin	Wes Pinfield	17	Wes Pinfield	15
Chuhin	Sven Van Roy	28	David James	29
Groups/Rafts	Judith Davison	18	David Collins	14
Landscapes & Rock	Judith Davison	4		
Open Class	Sven Van Roy	31	David James	22

Members' favourite tree of the show Sven Van Roy, tree no 31, European Larch

Nigel Sanders/The Bonsai Zone.

We were hoping that the August meeting at the MBS would feature a presentation by the above following the difficulties experienced in July. No contact was made with Nigel at 7.30 p.m., however, and Alex subsequently received an email from Nigel at about 10.00 p.m. to the effect that he had simply forgotten the appointment! We shall try and reschedule this event early next year, if appropriate.

GARDENING TIPS.

Encourage early autumn flowering by continuous deadheading

Lift and divide perennials to ensure vigorous healthy plants for next season

Collect seeds from ripening seed pods and flower heads

Rake up fallen leaves and bag them up or store them in a pile to make leaf mould

Start planting bulbs such as Onions, garlic, Shallots as well as ornamental Daffodils, Alliums and Crocuses.

Carry out essential maintenance and cleaning of greenhouses and cold frames.
(with thanks to Marshalls!)

BONSAI TIPS OF THE MONTH.

This month we can do no better that refer you to the lengthy list of tips and advice contained in the UKBA bulletin which we forwarded to you on 4th September.

COMING UP AT THE MBS.

This month we welcome DAVID CHESHIRE who will be talking about and showing you how to create a Root over Rock bonsai. The display table will hopefully feature Show Winners.

COMING UP AT REDDITCH BONSAI.

September's meeting features a presentation by Judith about The History of Bonsai. The display table is "Bonsai Artefacts"

HEALTH M.O.T.

We don't think that this has much to do with bonsai but Chad Griffin has alerted us to the following. There is, apparently, a Health MOT machine installed in Hobs Moat Library which is free to use. Thanks Chad, you heard it here first!

In the absence of any other member contributions, that's your lot for now.

R and A Gilkes. Ed. 6th September 2023.