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REDDITCH BONSAI

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EDITION OF JANUARY 2024.

EDITOR'S REMARKS.

A Happy New Year to you all. A and I look forward to seeing you all at the meetings of both societies in 2024.

We are pleased to announce the following dates for 2024:-

1. The MBS Annual Show will be held on Sunday 9th June 2024 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. David Cheshire Nurseries and Funky Fish Ceramics will both be present at the Show.
2. The Societies will also be manning a display table at the Gardens on the Sundays of 28th April and 29th September. More on this later.

We have several new initiatives this coming year which will hopefully enhance your bonsai experience, namely:-

1. We are inviting any member who watches any You Tube video which he/she considers may be of interest to other members to let us know so that the details may be published in the newsletter,
2. We hope to award a prize to the member who has in the opinion of the committee done most, during the year, to promote the interests of the Society. This will NOT be open to any committee member. This will apply to both Societies,
3. Remember that the table display will not now have a particular subject for any month. You are thus encouraged to bring along any tree of interest to EVERY meeting! And
4. You are also encouraged to send in your photos of bonsai related material whether it be trees, accent plants or whatever so that Alex and David can post them on the respective society websites.
5. We have offered you the opportunity to sell trees at the Show. So far no one has said that they intend to take up this offer. Do let us know if you wish to participate in this way.

COMING UP AT THE MBS AND REDDITCH.

The first meeting of the year at both societies, on 4th and 18th January respectively will be a MEMBERS' FORUM. You are invited to bring along trees or accent plants for discussion amongst members, led by a three member panel.

The panel for the MBS meeting on Thursday of this week will include **David Cheshire** and **David Attwood**.

So, if you have any tree/accent plant the development of which is possibly troubling you then why

not bring it along and hear the opinion of others, which may help you in the future. Alternatively you may want to bring along a recently acquired tree for general discussion- perhaps you received one as a Christmas present? The moral is “Bring something – large or small!”

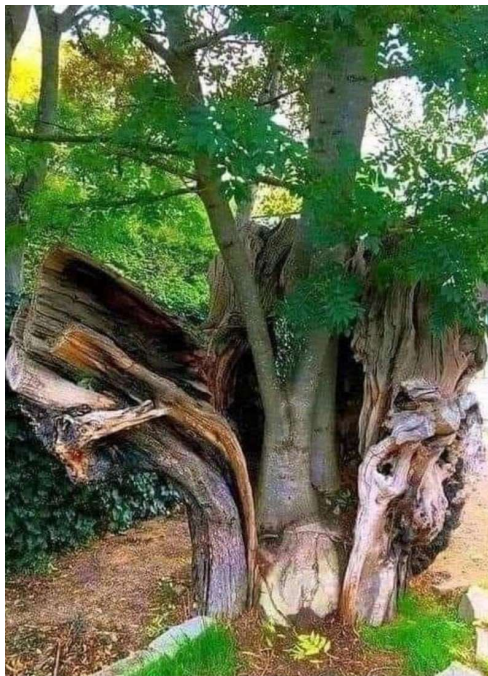
BONSAI CHRISTMAS TREE?

I'd be interested to know whether anyone has tried turning a Christmas Tree into a bonsai. It was all the rage on YouTube last winter with several channels attempting it. I tried it with a blue spruce but bought a dud with very few roots. It may have been pot-grown (as it claimed) but obviously not for very long! Am going to give it another go this year with a much stronger tree, and more patience.

Dave How, Redditch B.S.

AN INTERESTING PHOTO.

Robert Walton has sent in the photo below. He found the image on the internet. Perhaps one of you may have seen in it “the flesh”?



BONSAI TIP OF THE MONTH.

There is not much going on at the moment. Just be aware that trees may dry out in windy periods if kept under cover – so be wary. There’s no real need to feed trees at this time of the year but it’s a good time to make sure that you have the necessary materials if you intend to re-pot any of your trees later in the year. I commend you to the tips section of the UKBA newsletter which I will send on later but will not repeat here.

GARDENING TIP OF THE MONTH.

You might want to think about buying a pair of water wings at the moment! Some of the plots at our

allotment site have been under water. We are lucky to be at the top of a hill but the ground is still

very wet and the garden at home is also thoroughly soaked. Just put your feet up! On a brighter note the daffodils are appearing – so spring is coming! We suppose that you could tidy the greenhouse if you have one. If you grow Azalea Indica, as we do, you might have noted that they came in to flower rather earlier than usual. Ours are now almost finished flowering but it's still far too cold to put them outside again. What is important is to snip off ALL the old flowers as they die off. This makes for a much tidier plant and stops the plant using energy trying to produce seed. We have included a photo below of 3 of our plants at home. Be warned. They do not last forever. A lovely red single variety which we had had for years simply keeled over last spring and is now no more!



Best wishes to all. Richard and Angela Gilkes.
January 2024.