



www.midlandbonsai.org



REDDITCH BONSAI

www.redditchbonsai.co.uk

EDITION OF APRIL 2024.

EDITOR'S REMARKS.

In so far as the show is concerned we have decided that it is a good idea to allow Redditch members to enter trees into competition if they so desire. This will make for a better and bigger display of trees etc. Redditch will also have a Table Display as well. See a detailed note about preparations for the show later in the letter. If you have any ideas, offers etc please get in touch.

Bonsai Mirai.

During the talk given by Phil Holroyd at the MBS meeting on 7th March mention was made of a You Tube site which Phil reckoned was a pretty useful guide to photographing your trees. We have given what we think is the correct name of the site above. Have a look and see what you think. Do let us have some feedback if you do so.

MBS TABLE AT THE BOTANICAL GARDENS.

The Society has agreed to put on a display table in the foyer of the Gardens on Sunday 28th April. This venture will be a useful opportunity to publicise the Annual Show. The event usually lasts all day and accordingly we shall need members to volunteer their time to make it a success. You could do so for an hour or two, half a day or even the whole day. If anyone is up for this please let us know. The format would involve:-

1. Providing information to and answering questions from people attending the Gardens,
2. Bringing along a tree or two to work on and make it look like a Bonsai Society event,
3. Dishing out fliers which will be supplied and generally promoting the Society, the Show and the art of Bonsai, and
4. Even possibly signing up some new members (!)

We should add that Redditch will be repeating the exercise later in the year.

REDDITCH MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE.

Wes has received the following communication from the powers that be at Webheath Village Hall:-

Just to let you know the exciting news that Webheath Community Library is now open in our outer foyer. Please feel free to use this great facility and spread the word.

This may mean that there will be users of the library around that should not be given access to the hall itself so we ask that you make sure that the inside door, the one that needs the code, be closed as soon as all your members have arrived. This is for added security to your group and to the hall so please check at the start of your group.

Happy book sharing and reading!
Kind regards
Vikki Webheath Village Hall.

GARDENING TIP OF THE MONTH.

- If you haven't pruned your roses yet, you still have time. They'll benefit from a good, hard prune, encouraging a growth spurt.
- Early potatoes can go into drills as long as the soil isn't waterlogged, or you can plant them in [grow sacks](#).
- Now's the time to plant [lilies and other summer-flowering bulbs](#) in pots and borders for a great summer display.
- Weed your vegetable beds and [dig in manure](#), ready for spring planting.
- Plant [onions and shallots](#) now, and cover them with [fleece](#) for the first month to stop birds pulling out the young plants.

COMING UP AT THE MBS.

The meeting on the 4th April will be a WORKSHOP, so get your trees lined up and your tools cleaned and sharpened ready for action. We hope that there will be as good a turn out as there was in February, which was an excellent evening on any view.

COMING UP AT REDDITCH.

The April meeting on the 18th of the month will feature a presentation from Malcolm Hughes.

BONSAI TIP OF THE MONTH.

Here are the results of our enquiries about pear rust. It's said that there is really no product available to the ordinary gardener that can be applied to eradicate an infestation.

The problem:- Pear rust spots are the result of the fungal infection, *gymnosporangium sabinae*. The spots are bright orange and as they mature, the underside of the leaf develops a bulky growth from which protrude tiny "fingers" – it's from these that the fungus spreads its spores. The disease doesn't spread via other pear trees but instead jumps to neighbouring junipers which develop swellings on the stems which then develop into orange horny outgrowths. The junipers harbour the fungus during the winter until the following spring when it hops back to your pear trees.

The treatment:- It's said that there is really no product available to the ordinary gardener that can be applied to eradicate an infestation. However... The fungicides tebuconazole (Provanto Fungus Fighter Concentrate), tebuconazole with trifloxystrobin (Provanto Fungus Fighter Plus, Toprose Fungus Control & Protect), and triticonazole (Fungus Clear Ultra) are approved for the control of rust diseases on ornamental plants, and could be used on ornamental pear species.

Well it's worth trying I guess.

YOU TUBE VIDEO.

Peter Clarke reports:-

I have been watching a YouTube video It's called "Simple ideas for improving bonsai" by Herons Bonsai.

Does anyone else have any suggestions please?

SHOW UPDATE.

Here is a summary of the present position with regard to the preparations for the Show. In no particular order:-

The show will consist of trees in competition, trees on display only including Redditch display trees, Suiseki and accent plants if you wish to display them. As we did last year we shall ask Brian Cooke to bring a collection of starter material to try and explain to/show the visitors that Bonsai is not all about magnificent 100 year old trees. There may also be one or two members working quietly on a tree in a corner of the suite.

Placement of all MBS and Redditch competition trees. This will be the sole responsibility of DAVE ATTWOOD – i.e. his word is final!

Redditch display. Redditch member DAVID HOW has agreed to manage the display by Redditch. Any of their member's competition trees will be under the jurisdiction of Dave Attwood.

Welcome Table in Gardens foyer. We mentioned the MBS table scheduled for the 28th April but the Gardens have also said that we may put on a "Welcome Table" in the Gardens foyer on the day of the Show itself. Wes Pinfield has agreed to organise this and he will be in touch with you directly. Does anyone have a small artist's easel which we could use to display a poster or two, please?

The Large Banner placed at the entrance of the Gardens has been confirmed to be in the possession of John Ville. It will be delivered to the Gardens in time to be displayed.

Advertising. The website has an announcement upon it. The Gardens have sent a draft of a poster which they prepared and we have replied with some suggested amendments. Once finalised an A4 version will be circulated to all for display by you locally. The Gardens are also preparing directional signs to be placed within the premises on the day.

Tombola. This is under the control of Teannah. She is organising her supporters. She asks that you start to bring in gifts to form the basis of the event. Thank you.

Table Set up. This will much the same as last year and the Gardens have the plan in their possession. The Gardens will set out the tables. There will be no backdrops as last year. We have the black skirts and Judith has the white table top cloths. Malcolm Hughes has agreed to lend us his bamboo dividers and will bring them to the Redditch meeting in April.

Competition. Attached to the email circulating this Newsletter will be the Rules of Engagement! We are pleased to say that Jonathan Moulton has kindly agreed to judge the competition entries and also to give feedback where he deems it appropriate.

Trees for Sale. We have had no response from anyone wishing to sell any items at the show, so, presume that there are none, although David Cheshire will of course have material for sale.

Trophies. If you are holding a trophy from last year please return it. Please don't leave it until the day/last minute.

Trade stands. David Cheshire and Funky Fish Ceramics will be joining us on the day.

Photography. Alex Watt has agreed to man the cameras.

Judith's jobs. Judith has the following tasks, some of which she doesn't know about yet!

1. People's Tree voting slips.
2. Numbering for competition trees.
3. Labels for all trees.
4. Steward's badges.
5. Category and "Do Not Touch" signage.
6. Fliers for Welcome Table and Distribution within the suite.
7. Judge's comment and result slips.

Access to the Gardens. The back doors will be open at 8.00 a.m. We shall not be able to access the suite through the greenhouses. **We shall have to use the side gate below the buildings/canopy entrance and manoeuvre across the terrace to the suite.**

Car parking. Stewards and traders to enter their car reg no. in small tablet on the desk at the foyer. Others would have to pay £3.00 on leaving. **We will need your name to be supplied to us if you are intending to help as a steward throughout the day, together with your vehicle details/reg no. MOST IMPORTANT.**

Talks. We are grateful to David, as ever, for agreeing to provide a short talk to the visiting public. We have asked if there is any one of you prepared to provide a second item. So far there have been no offers, which is disappointing to say the least.

Teas etc. Angela will be on tea/drinks duty. Otherwise use the cafe for lunch or bring your own sandwiches.

Radio advertising. We are in touch with Radio WM. Molly Green is no longer on the air waves at the weekend as we understand it but we are hopeful of some offer of a slot prior to the show. Watch this space.

LASTLY If you feel that you could make a contribution towards the success of the event or can help on the day please let us know.

Richard and Angela Gilkes. Sec