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REDDITCH BONSAI

www.redditchbonsai.co.uk

EDITION OF JUNE 2024.

BILL TROMANS.

Many of you will remember Bill for a variety of reasons. He and his family left the West Midlands some time ago and relocated to the North East beyond Newcastle. We are sorry to say that news of his recent death has been received. At the time of receipt his funeral had already taken place. Wes Pinfield will be visiting his widow in the near future for personal reasons and to examine Bill's collection of trees and pots as he has stipulated that they be given to the Society. We think that Wes will evaluate the items and possibly decide to split them between us and the local society in Berwick on Tweed. Further information in due course. We extend our condolences to his family at this time.

THE SHOW.

We remain on course to hold what we hope, with your support, will be a great show. Here in no particular order, is an update:-

Posters. Steve Stokes has kindly agreed to be responsible for placing all posters and signs both in the hall and around the Gardens. The main banner is now in the possession of the Gardens and will be displayed for a week before the event.

Tombola. Teannah reports a satisfactory response from members to her requests for prizes, but we are sure that she will always be glad to receive more stock! We noticed that at the last meeting no Redditch member had apparently come forward with gifts as far as we could tell. If you wish to donate anything please let us know. MBS members have the June meeting to bring further items apart from anything that they turn up with on the day.

Judging. Jon Moulton remains on course to discharge this task. We believe that he will, where appropriate, leave written feedback for individual members.

Trees. It follows that Jon will have to have something to judge! So, as ever, we are relying on you all to come along with trees whether for display only or in competition. The public will be themselves judging the worth of the Society as a whole by the quality and number of trees on display. If anyone is in any doubt about competition classes or any other issue please let us or David Attwood know. Remember that he will be in sole charge of the placement of exhibits at the event.

Parking. Don't forget to register your vehicle on the small tablet on the desk at reception.

Welcome Table. This is a new venture this year and will be managed by Wes. He already has some volunteers to staff the table but we are sure that he would always welcome more.

Advertising. We hope that you have all managed to display at least one if not more of the posters that we circulated. At the time of writing we are hoping to get a slot on Radio WM again but, having contacted them several times, are waiting to hear from the Station.

Steward Badges. We will be distributing these on the day if not before. Please try and look after them and we may collect them after the event to avoid the cost of more next year. If you have MBS Shirts and badges please wear them.

Access to the Gardens on the day. Doors should be open at 8.00 a.m. Entrance will be by the gate below the portico as we understand it and then across the upper terrace. The back door will also be open but of course there is limited parking in there. David Cheshire and Sharon/Funky Fish will have priority there.

COMING UP AT THE MBS.

David Cheshire will be with us this month as a change to the published programme because he was unable to visit us last month as originally planned. David will be telling us what he would be doing to prepare a tree for display/competition and will be only too happy to give advice to anyone who brings a tree along for comment/advice.

COMING UP AT REDDITCH BONSAI.

The 20th June sees our "In House Show", so here's an opportunity for you to bring along all the trees that were exhibited at the Botanical Gardens and perhaps a few hidden surprises? Voting by committee. The classes will be the same as the basic classes at the Gardens.

BONSAI TIP OF THE MONTH.

The most important thing this month is that you should support the Show on 9th June. It's yours after all!

As things stand as I write this (it's been raining all day!) watering should not be too much of a problem. Do, however, make sure that you have adequate arrangements for when you are away on holiday for example. We think that it's important to put fresh batteries into watering timers when you fire them up for the first time in the season. We were nearly caught out by this error last year!

GARDENING TIP OF THE MONTH.

Look out for slugs and snails following recent heavy rains. We planted some newly acquired chrysanthemums out at the allotment the other day and failed to spread slug pellets. Two days later the blighters had reduced some very promising plants to bare sticks!

It's been a difficult year on other fronts too. For example it hasn't really warmed up yet, at least not reliably (heating on here the other evening). So don't rush to plant out those possible rather tender seedlings/young plants before they have thoroughly acclimatised. We doubt that there will be any further frosts this year but some evenings do get rather cool and the mid-day sun can get rather hoy giving a tremendous shift of temperature all in one day.

Sow a few biennials such as foxgloves, sweet williams and honesty. They will all flower next year!
Finally:-

1. Plant a tree, and
2. Look out for Asian Hornets and report them if you see them.

3. Fill gaps in borders with flowering annuals like cosmos and nicotiana
4. Deadhead roses and pick sweet peas to encourage the plants to keep flowering
5. Harden off and plant out tender vegetables such as pumpkins, squashes and outdoor tomatoes
6. Dig up and enjoy the last of the early potatoes, and keep earthing up maincrops
7. Harvest onions and garlic once the leaves turn yellow and flop over
8. Now is the time to plant water lilies in ponds, as well as marginal plants like marsh marigolds and flag irises.

BONSAI CARE APP.

Julian Listwon has sent us a link to an App which he discovered, enabling you to keep track of and care for your bonsai. It's downloadable free from Bonsai Empire.

Here are some details which will maybe help you to decide whether you want to use it:-

1. The App is found at <https://www.bonsaicare.app>
2. A video showing how to use it is found at:-
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GHPaPO2SYF8>

Best of luck. Any reports of your findings would be of interest.

EDITOR'S NOTE.

Any of the above comments made about weather/temperature were written at least 10/14 days ago. Although it's warmer now it's hardly "flaming June" yet. We have just returned from a few days away in Granada where day time temperatures reached 33/34 degrees C.

R and A Gilkes. 3rd June 2024.