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**REDDITCH BONSAI**

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### **EDITOR'S REMARKS.**

We have been away in Ireland for three weeks returning late last week. The weather there was exactly the same as that experienced here – HOT and DRY but by one means and another the garden and the allotment survived without any major casualties. We can thank the city fathers for their wisdom in initiating the construction of the Elan Valley reservoirs in 1896 for Birmingham's supply of water during the 100 or more years since then. No wonder that Severn Trent have not had to declare a hosepipe ban for 31 years! One of many interesting facts about the supply is that the pipeline is entirely gravity fed all the way from Wales to the facility at Frankley. Opened in 1906 with two 42 inch diameter pipes two more pipes of 63 inch diameter were added between 1919 and 1961.

So, this newsletter is a little short I am afraid.

Why not let us know of the difficulties you have experienced over the summer, if any, and how you have coped with them? (see below)

### **Peter Toghill.**

Some of you will remember Peter, a former member of the MBS and sometime committee member and Treasurer and for that matter his wife Rosemary. Well, we had a call from Peter's daughter the other day to inform us that:-

1. Rosemary had been in a home for some time as she suffers dementia, and
2. Peter's Parkinson's disease had worsened and he had had to go into a home as well, albeit a different one to Rosemary.

Peter is in Shenstone Court which lies at the foot of Mucklows Hill, Halesowen and is apparently enjoying life there. His telephone number is 07812 896626.

### **Bonsai Treehouses Exhibition.**

On Sunday 12th July 2026, my daughter invited my wife and I to London for a tour to celebrate my birthday – without telling us what was planned.

We walked from Marylebone and reached Oxford Square in Connaught Village – then discovered that our destination was the Museum of

Architects exhibition of Bonsai Treehouses – having read about it in our last Newsletter, we were delighted!

The MoA is a charity and one challenge they set their members was to design and build tree houses – in the absence of enough space to build and display full size ones, they sensibly opted for Bonsai instead!

It was a perfect setting, in the sun-soaked Square, surrounded by London Plane trees!

Peter Warren, a renowned Bonsai artist after 6 years training in Japan, who runs Saruyama Nursery, was recruited to provide the expertise and trees – he supplied plenty of trees for the architects to work on, as well as an impressive display of some of his own artistry.

I had an interesting chat with Peter and mentioned the MBS but didn't have time to attend his workshop sessions.

There were boards, explaining bonsai for beginners, and showing some extravagant tree houses from around the world – in addition to around 30 tree houses created by the various firms of architects.

The range of imaginative and intricate designs was remarkable and each one was dramatically different from the others! They are best shown through photographs and the architects' own explanations of what they were trying to achieve.

Roger Lewis.

Editor's note. We regret to say that we have mislaid the photos of this event sent by Roger. When we find them we will publish them! Our apologies.

### **COMING UP AT THE MBS.**

This THURSDAY we welcome our old friend MALCOLM HUGHES. Malcolm tells us that he is aware, from many sources, that enthusiasts have been reporting many difficulties with trees/plants over the summer, particularly it seems with Hornbeams. Accordingly we have agreed that the subject for his talk THIS THURSDAY will be "Seasonal problems and their resolution". You are accordingly invited to bring along any material that has caused you problems/or suffered undue stress this summer in the hope that a useful and informative evening can be enjoyed.

### **COMING UP AT REDDITCH BONSAI.**

IAN HOMER of Walsall will be visiting on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September to lead a discussion about the "perfect pot".

Richard and Angela Gilkes. 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026.

