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REDDITCH BONSAI

www.redditchbonsai.co.uk

Edition of October 2026.

PLEASE SEE NOTE RE CASCADES TRIP BELOW.

LETTERHEADS FOR BOTH SOCIETIES.

When I took over as Secretary of the MBS I inherited a box of letterheads which feature a design incorporating the name of the society in the top left corner and an image of a group of trees in the bottom right. This box is now almost empty and so it's time to order some more. The current logo appears above.

When there is a need for correspondence from Redditch the logo above is used and printed as and when needed.

Would anyone like to come up with suggestions for new letterheads for both societies? Go on, have a go!

COMING UP AT THE MBS.

The meeting on 1st October will be devoted to Mosses, Ferns and Accent plants with a video presentation.

COMING UP AT REDDITCH BONSAI.

The meeting on Thursday 15th October will be a WINTER IMAGE SHOW.

BONSAI TIP OF THE MONTH.

Vine weevil, leather jackets and chafer grubs will be on the move so you may want to invest in suitable defence mechanisms against these unwanted visitors! Try Green Gardener,

GARDENING TIP OF THE MONTH.

Consider setting some annuals for next year such as snaps. orlaya grandiflora, nigella, scabious and centaurea. Given protection over the winter these plants will then give an early and rewarding display next year.

MUSEUM OF ARCHITECTURE.

Here are a couple of pictures taken by Roger Lewis during his trip to the above venue .



THE IMPORTANCE OF A GOOD POT by Sven Van Roy.

People that were present at the last MBS meeting will have seen I brought in a European hornbeam that seemed to be showing signs of stress. The leaves had gone pale and yellow in the last few weeks, too early for autumn colour. After discussion with Malcolm and the room, the likely causes were identified as either being too pot bound or some root rot setting in.

I took the tree out of the pot over the weekend and the tree does look like it could do with a repot next spring but it wasn't that pot bound where I would think it would cause any issues yet. There was however some signs of root rot towards the bottom of the root ball and no signs of new root growth there which was suggesting drainage issues.

After some further inspection, I noticed water was pooling in the pot itself and not draining out of the holes properly, which was likely the cause of the issues with the bottom of the root ball.

I have removed the worst of the root rot and put the tree into a pond basket where it will stay for the rest of the year. I will do a proper repot next spring. Fingers crossed!



Sven's suspect pot with evidence of water retention.

TRIP TO CASCADES.

Please note that the trip to Cascades has been postponed until the Spring of next year.

PORTULACARIA.

Here's a note from Steve Davies, a Redditch member, about an interesting plant that he introduced us all to at a recent meeting. Member Anne Walton took several offcuts and set them. We hope that they will "take"

"The succulent that seems to have grabbed everyone's attention is Portulacaria Afra Variegata. It is a South African plant where it can grow to many metres high. It is known as The Elephant Bush in South Africa or Speckboom. The variegated version grows a little more slowly than the plain plant. In the UK we are more likely to know it as the Dwarf Jade."

Steve Davies

Editor's note. Steve attached several photos to show how some people have created bonsai 'trees'. I shall be sending these on in a separate note as they are all rather lovely.

BONSAI EVENT AT DAVID CHESHIRE'S NURSERY.

On the 23rd of August UK Mini Bonsai held an event at David Cheshire nursery. It's an annual event run by Mark Moreland and Gary Careford who also run the Heathrow show. So I decided to enter my trees.

There were 11 competitors from various clubs around the UK including London, Manchester, Yorkshire and others which I can't frankly remember.

It was a display of mame and shohin and I displayed a shohin five point display. I was the only one from the Midlands area and to my surprise I came first!

The judging came from all competitors voting on each other's displays, so I was very pleased with the outcome.

David Attwood.