



www.midlandbonsai.org



REDDITCH BONSAI

www.redditchbonsai.co.uk

Edition of February 2026.

EDITOR'S REMARKS.

We are pleased to tell you that steps are being taken to bring the MBS website up to date. David Attwood, your new chairman, has formed a sub-committee of "younger" members to oversee this project. Some improvements have already been made so have a look at them. More news in due course.

Whilst on that subject the Redditch site has recently been vastly improved thanks to the interest and initiative of the Society's Chairman, David Haw. It's worth a look. Just search "Redditch Bonsai".

YOU TUBE.

Members are reminded that if they should happen to view what they consider to be a useful bonsai related video on You Tube they might consider letting other members know about it. They can do this by using What's App and/or letting us know so that we can publish the details here.

COMING UP AT REDDITCH BONSAI.

The February meeting on 19th of the month will feature a Re-potting workshop.

COMING UP AT THE MBS.

The MBS meeting on 5th February also features a Re-potting and Root pruning workshop. Let's hope that this meeting and the Redditch meeting are not affected by the weather as the MBS January event was. We hope that you will all agree that the decision to cancel that meeting was the right one in the circumstances!

BONSAI TIP OF THE MONTH.

It's time to think about re-potting, hence the choice of subject for this month's meeting. Whilst we are not ones to keep detailed records of the progress/development of our trees we do at least keep a record of what has and what hasn't been re-potted each year. Without this record we would be all at sea trying to remember what was and what wasn't re-potted. We are not going to tell you how often to re-pot your trees. There is no hard and fast rule. Generally younger trees require re-potting more often than older specimens, perhaps every year. Trees that have become "pot bound" should also be attended to at this time. Faster growing varieties such as trident maple, hornbeam and

cotoneaster will require attention more frequently than pines and junipers for example. Specimens of the latter may not require attention for up to five or six years. All re-potted trees should be sheltered from the worst of the weather for a couple of weeks.

GARDENING TIP OF THE MONTH.

Keep lawns free of fallen leaves. There's still time to plant bare root roses, shrubs and hedging. Take root cuttings of verbascum and oriental poppies and hardwood cuttings of viburnum. Winter prune apples and pears trying to keep an open aspect in the canopy – Angela's uncle used to say that you should be able to throw your hat up /through a large tree! Towards the end of February you could think about cutting back autumn raspberries – take them down to about 6/8 inches. If frost threatens however, we advise waiting a while.

If it's raining then take the time to sort out your seeds for 2026 and make a plan/timetable for planting during the year. Have a look at Chiltern Seeds for some new ideas. They have a very extensive catalogue.

PAST ARTICLES.

We would like to remind you that there are several articles still available about various aspects of Bonsai culture/practice which we would be happy to send to anyone requesting same.

David Cheshire has provided 3 as follows:-

1. Bonsai Soils and Mixes.
2. Feeding pines, and
3. Japanese White Pines.

Malcolm Hughes has provided an article on Judging Criteria.

Let us know if you are interested.

CAR WINDOW STICKER.

The stickers have finally arrived, Having agreed upon/finalised the design arrangements were made to have the printer post them to our address – thus avoiding the necessity of a trip to Bromsgrove to collect them. This is where things went wrong – thanks to the Royal Mail. The stickers just didn't turn up in what was considered to be a reasonable time. We haven't had a regular postal delivery here in Northfield during the whole of the month but we have had a couple of deliveries in the last 10 days -but no stickers. Having reported this to Bromsgrove Printing the owner went to the trouble of delivering them here on Thursday evening, so we will be bringing them along on Thursday. We think that they are excellent! We have sent a note to the printer thanking him for his kindness.

THE LIBRARY.

Yes, the MBS still has a library and having relinquished her position as chair Judith has agreed to be responsible for it. So far she has taken the step of sorting the books into two piles, one to keep and one to get rid of by sale or gift. There is a complete list of the books on the website but within this letter there is a shorter list of the books which are proposed to be retained. The remainder will be offered at the Bring and Buy later in the year.

Judith does not intend to bring all the books to every meeting. She will bring one or two for perusal and possible loan but will of course also bring any specifically requested.

She will also be keeping a lookout for any new titles which she thinks may be of interest/use and which might be added to the collection. If you come across a book or other publication which you think may be of interest to your fellow members please let her know.

ANDREW PHILLIPS.

Some but not all of you will have seen the What's App chat about the above. Mark Moreland of UKBA had contacted us as he had heard that Andrew has died around Christmas and thought we might know of him as he lived in Droitwich. Fortunately David Attwood knew him and by now will have responded to Mark's request for information as he wishes to include an obituary in an upcoming bulletin. If anyone else has any information about him please let us know.

UPDATE.

Following David Attwood speaking with Mark Moreland we were asked to make enquiries of Malcolm Hughes. A telephone call to Malcolm revealed that Andrew had been a member of the MBS in the 70's/80's (before our time) and had then moved to South Staffs for a while. He then moved to live in or around Droitwich when he got married and Malcolm had no more up to date information about him. All this was conveyed to Mark Moreland but we believe that he will not be pursuing his original plan of publishing an obituary.

Whilst looking through/editing old photos we found this photo of a tree owned by, we believe, Junior Parris. It looks to be some sort of Juniper – perhaps he would kindly let us know exactly what it is? We think you will agree that it really is rather lovely.



SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Wes reminds you that your subscription became due on 1st January, so, if you have not yet paid would you please arrange to do so as soon as possible. The amount is £34.00 per member. Thank you.

LIBRARY LIST – BOOKS BEING RETAINED.

	Title	Author	Notes	Date	Pages
1	Man Lung Artistic Pot Plants	Wing Lung Bank Ltd. Art Publications		1974	355
2	The Living Art of Bonsai	Professor Amy Liang		1992	288
3	Bonsai Techniques II	John Naka	Soft back	1982	442
4	The Art of Bonsai	Peter Adams		1981	174
5	The Bonsai Book. The Definitive Illustrated Guide	Dan Barton		1989	160
6	Gold Awarded Penjing of the World Volume 1	Chen Zhiqi & Chen Zhijiu	Colour plates of award-winning trees	2006	216
7	Gold Awarded Penjing of the World Volume 2	Chen Zhiqi & Chen Zhijiu	Ditto	2006	202
8	The Bonsai Art of Kimura	Katsuhito Onishi		1992	175
9	Bonsai Masterclass	Peter Chan		1987	160
10	Bonsai, the Art of Growing & Keeping Miniature Trees	Peter Chan		1985	174
11	The Complete Book of Bonsai	Peter Chan		1989	160
12	Bonsai Art and Technique	Pius Notter		1987	159
13	The Art of Indoor Bonsai	John Ainsworth		1988	128
14	The Bonsai School	Craig Coussins		2002	256
15	Miniature Bonsai	Lin Kuo-cheng		1987	119
16	Penjing, the Chinese Art of Miniature Gardens	Hu Yunhua			
17	Saiki: Living Landscapes in Miniature	Toshio Kawamoto		1977	133
18	Timeless trees. The U.S. National Bonsai Collection	P L & M H Bloomer		1986	109
19	Japanese Five-needle Pine	William N Valvanis	Rare small paperback	1976	66
20	The Best of British Bonsai 2011	Birmingham Botanical Gardens	Includes photos of some entries by MBS members	2011	95

HOLDEN CERAMICS.

On Saturday last David Attwood, Brian Cooke and Tarun Raipure made the trip to Burton on Trent to visit the workshop of Gavin Holden aka Holden Ceramics. Members will remember that Gavin came along with a selection of his wares to our Annual Show at the Botanical Gardens in June last year. It sounds as if Gavin will be coming along to the show this June as well. He will be most welcome.



R and A Gilkes 2nd February 2026