

**NORTHERN GOLDFISH
& PONDKEEPERS
SOCIETY**
A Nationwide Society
NEWSLETTER



March 2016



Alan Ratcliffe feeds his London Shubunkins

We visit one of NGPS's longest serving member this month – Alan is famous for his beautiful coloured London Shubunkins and Comets....



His fish-house has a dozen 4 feet x 12 inch x 12 inch glass tanks, but only filled to 9 inches (or they leap out, says Alan). An assortment of small aquaria houses green water, infusoria, daphnia for raising fry. In the garden are two pools...the largest is 12 feet x 20 feet and 3 feet deep, butyl lined earth and houses assorted goldfish – even 5 large Mirror Carp.



Alan with one of three dogs he manages as well as the fish!



A smaller concrete pond holds Commons and is part of the water circulation system that trickle feeds the fish-house tanks from a large mature-water holding tank, topped-up from the mains as needed.

This year Alan hopes to breed some Bristols and scaled Fantails as well as the London Shubunkins. In his fish-house are also Scaled Fantails, Calicos and Comets. As a Nationwide Judge he knows exactly what is needed for the Showing Season.



However, his love of fish even extends to a few indoor Tropicals. In the front room is a modern LED Nano tank with Cardinals and Platys...and an excellent aquatic plant garden.

But his main hobby is the Shower Quality Goldfish, from Fantail breeding stock like these...



...to his uniquely, intensely coloured Show Fish.



Member's write: **An Air Ring Main** by Alex King

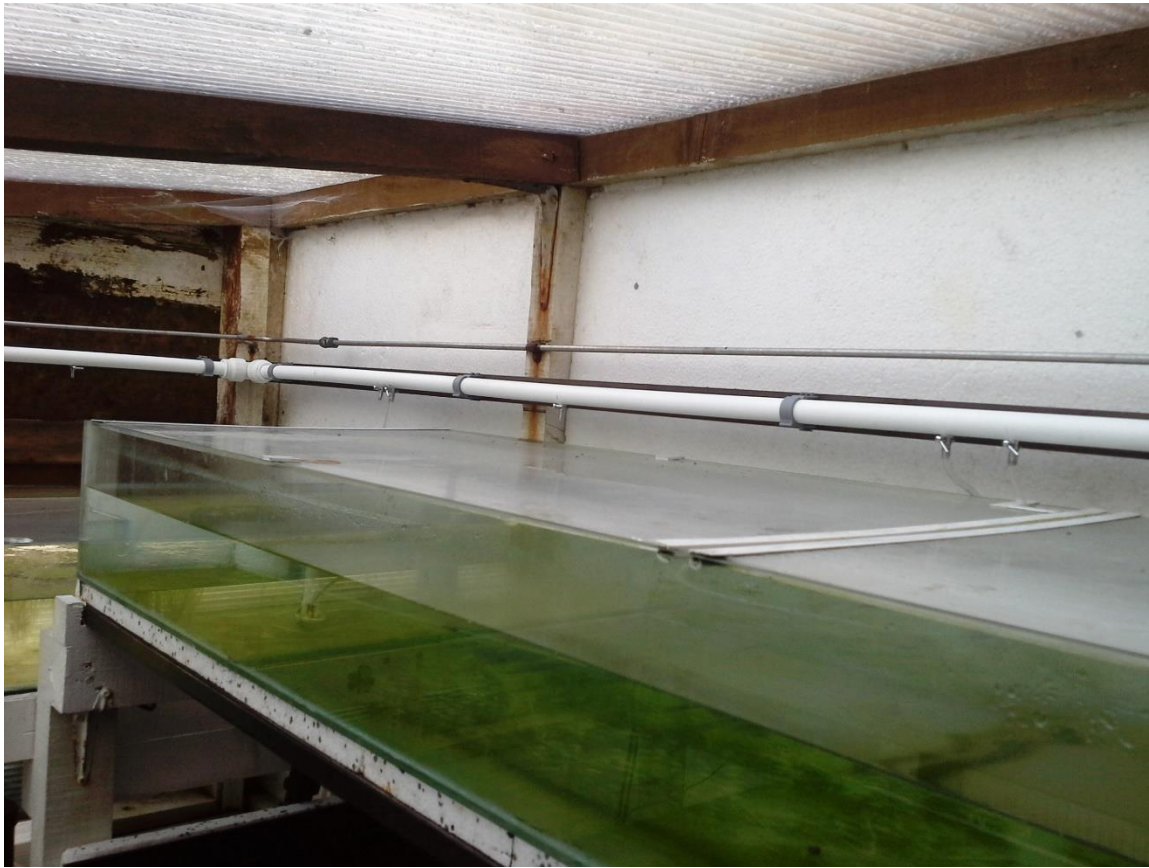
For a while now I have been thinking about installing an air ring main in my fish house to replace all the airline tubing and finally got round to this a few weeks ago. I did a lot of research on the internet before I worked out what was the easiest and best way for me to install it.

Before I ordered the pipework and fittings I needed, I decided to order the stainless steel airline valves and the cheapest option I found was on Ebay from China as they were roughly a quarter of the cost compared to suppliers in UK, and this included postage, although I did have to wait a couple of weeks for them to arrive. Once I had the valves and knew the exact size of the screw in threaded connection I ordered the JG Speedfit 22mm pipework and fittings required. I decided to go for this as it's easy to put together and there are no adhesives involved, but one thing I would recommend is that if you decide to use this type of pipework it is well worth buying the JG Speedfit pipe cutter, it makes installation so much easier. Before I started to install I did a trial run on fitting one of the steel valves into a short length of pipe to determine the size of hole required to be drilled and thread tap size. The best fit I found was to drill a 4mm hole and use a 5M tap, this probably isn't exactly correct, but it does give you a good fit when you screw the valve into the 22mm barrier pipe, that has a 2mm wall thickness.



In addition to ensure a good strong seal on final fit I put a thin layer of epoxy resin on the thread, the type I used was Evo-stik rapid as it remains workable for 5 minutes and this allows you to mix enough at a time to do several valves once all the preparation work is done. I would advise that you work out on the pipework exactly where you are going to fit the valves and install them before final fit of

pipework. What I did was fit 3 valves per tank/tub to allow me to run airstone(s) and filters if required, probably a bit overkill on my part, but it's always better to have too many than too little. Before fitting pipework I installed 38mm W x 19mm D wooden straps to screw pipe securing brackets into, round the 4 sides of fish house having first treated them with a wood preservative.



My air ring main forms a square round my fish house connected via a downpipe to a lower length of pipework that has outlets valves fitted for my 2 outside ponds, brine shrimp hatchery and treatment tub if required. The downpipe is extended lower for connection to my HiBlow pump.

On completion of system I did a test run to ensure there was no air leaks before connecting all my airstones supplying individual tubs/tanks, everything worked great first time, I was delighted with my new air ring main, but to my dismay about 8 days after initial switch on I encountered a problem. I could hear a gurgling sound coming from inside the downpipe in a 90 degree bend at the connection to the pump. It was caused by water inside the downpipe, so, without switching off the pump, I disconnected it and thankfully no water had entered the pump. As I am no expert I suspect it is down to condensation forming inside pipework due to fluctuating cold temperatures at this time of year, hopefully during warmer months this will not happen, but I will just have to wait and see, therefore if anybody considers fitting an air ring main I would strongly recommend during planning stage, where possible, you allow for the pump to be installed above the air ring main.

As this was not possible for me I had to find a resolution to this problem and what I did was replace the 90 degree bend with a tee piece and raise connection to the pump, extend the downpipe using a clear acrylic pipe that allows me at a glance to see any build-up of water, this connects via 90 degree bend into reservoir pipe, that has a shut off valve fitted for releasing any excess water.



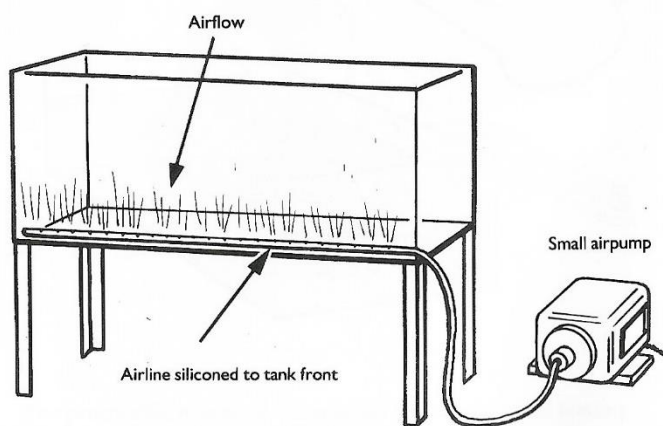
The only other thing I had to consider was how I could fit my spare pump quickly in the event that my reliable HiBlow failed. It has a 10mm flexible pipe outlet and the solution I came up with was to fit an end stop onto a short length of 22mm pipe, this will replace existing connection from tee piece in downpipe to HiBlow. In the end stop I drilled

a 10mm hole to insert the flexible tube that will connect to spare pump, added a plastic collar drilled out to 10mm for additional strength and secured tube and collar

in place using epoxy resin. You could probably use this method for different types of pumps.

Hope this helps any member who is maybe considering fitting an air ring main.
Alex King

More Top Tips



Alex's excellent article gives an advantage to this month's Top Tip.

If you are plagued by condensation on the front of your coldwater aquarium, keep it clear via a stream of air. Instead of the shown small airpump, you could run a lead from his Air Ring Main.

A Pond Aquarium



In the November 2015 Newsletter there is a report on the Aqua 2015 Trade Show with details of a Showcase Winner by VeldaBV...a floating aquarium to add to your pond. A DIY version has appeared on YouTube (in Germany). It shows how to make a tall square glass tank and fill it with pond water, then stand it upside-down (must be the shallow end). The Koi in the writer's pond soon discovered the tank (must have a cutaway section on one side) and he reported 'Bei Tag schwimmen manchmal bis zu 20 Kois im Turm bis an den oberen Deckel. Einige verweilen mehrere Stunden in der Säule' (By day sometimes up to 20 Koi swim up the tower to the upper lid. Some linger for several hours in the column). Guess the Koi like to view our World too.

Minutes of the March Meeting

As usual there was only the committee at the Church Inn! Please make every effort to attend the AGM, this will be Tuesday April 12th. We need to approve alternative meeting days or times. Please bring your subs too.....

Sherridan reported two members have had spawnings: Craig Clinton with Orandas and Bubble-eyes, and Stephen Whalley with Calico Lionheads.

The latest version of Bill Ramsden's Goldfish video was shown and then the Nationwide Standard publication discussed. This will be published on the NGPS website within a few days...we are just waiting for the official printed version.

Next meeting at the Church Inn, Prestwich, is the AGM April 12th

We are a Nationwide Society Member

