



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



November 2016

NGPS Social Weekend 2016



The Social Committee met in Llandudno from 29th to 31st October to look for new places to visit, since this was our third year at the Broadway Hotel.

We discovered the excellent SeaZoo in Anglesey and found more wine & dine places...the visit also coincided with the World Car Rally, Wales Leg 2016, Winner's Ceremony. See photos on page 8 of the full NGPS Website....
(www.northerngoldfishsociety.com)

During their stay at the Broadway, a slide show of the FBAS Festival of Fishkeeping was shown, here are the highlights....

Festival of Fishkeeping 2016

Below is the always amazing display of the many FBAS Awards, developed over their 78 years of holding Open Shows. We no longer attend – from when the social content of their Shows ended. But it remains the largest Fish Show in the UK and it may become even larger in 2017.



There are just a few Goldfish at the Show – as a display by the Show Committee.



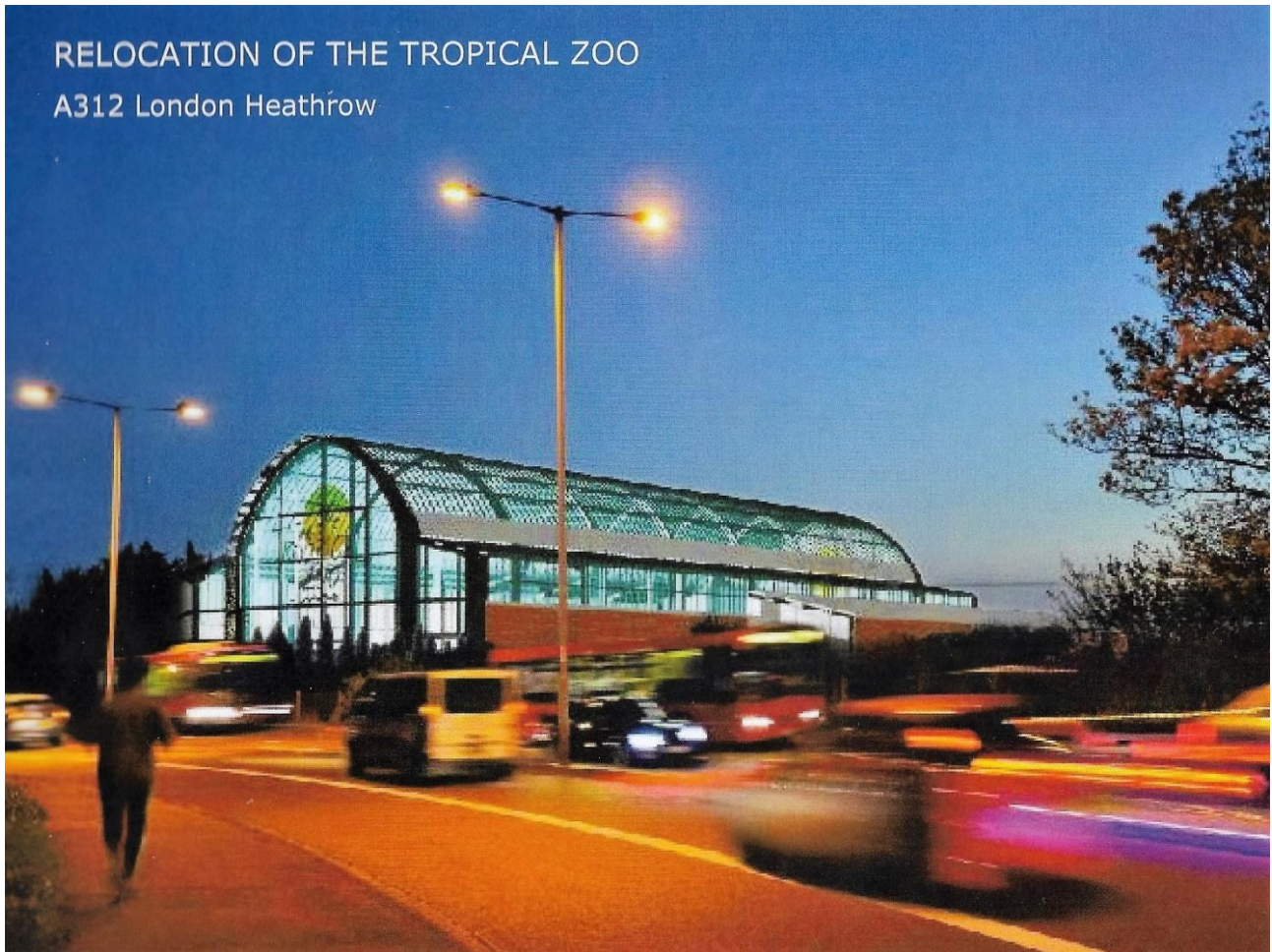
...sited at the entrance to the first marquee (there are three).

The full details are on the Practical Fishkeeping Website.

Click [HERE](#). (click/tap arrows under 'NEWS') it is called 'Show is a real festival of fish!'.



The reason the 2017 Show may be larger is because Joe Nethersell (Show Organiser and ex-President/Chairman of FBAS) has teamed-up with the owner of the Petting Farm, Tom Purdy. Together they have successfully applied for the Farm to be an official 'Zoo'. They then raised the necessary millions to build a



Tropical Zoo on the Hounslow site, where Tropical Plants and Tropical Aquaria will be housed. (Relocation because it used to be at Syon Park in West London.)

The plan is to make the Zoo (yet to be named) a rival to the London Zoo with a cheaper entrance fee and – because of its Heathrow siting – an attraction to millions of tourists arriving just next door. Every 45 seconds.

Hopefully by October 2017 – we will keep you informed.

Goldfish News

Where in the world are the most Goldfish bred? No, not Florida, but the Japanese city Yamatokoriyama in the Nara Prefecture of Japan. At least it was – back in the 70's they produced nearly 72 million Goldfish per year. However, the experts that live there are ageing and retiring/dying (a problem all over Japan). The Goldfish numbers are now down to less than 8½ million per year. Some of these are Bubble-eyes and researchers at the Aichi Fisheries Research Institute in Yatomi (same Prefecture) have discovered that the fluid in the bubbles have similar properties to FBS (this is Foetal Bovine Serum used World-wide in biological research and medicines). A problem with FBS is that it can include animal diseases that may transfer to humans – but the Goldfish has few (if any) such viruses and bacteria.

The scientists harvest the bubble-eye fluid with a hypodermic (they claim 40mls per 10cm Goldfish). This causes the bubble to collapse, but completely regenerates in a few months to allow more extraction. They have used the Goldfish's fluid as a cell culture solution and claim it is several times more effective than FBS – and much safer. Patents are pending – and it will help the Goldfish breeders of Yamatokoriyama produce more Goldfish again. If only Bubble-eyes.

They should ask Sherridan about his prize-winning Bubbles....



Pond News



This year the European Union has banned the sale of *Elodea crispa* (*Lagarosiphon major* or Curly Water Weed) and the Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*). *The most popular of all UK pond plants!*

Also *Cabomba caroliniana* and American Fanwort *Lysichiton americanus*. They have become a

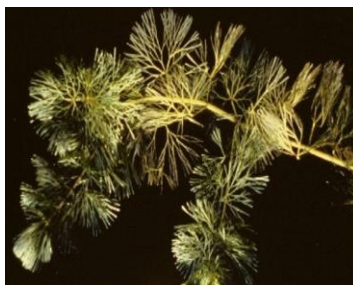
problem weed in canals and rivers of the warmer countries in the EU...but never here in the UK. It is just too cold for the plants to run to seed and propagate. However, we have to obey. *At least until next year!*



Elodea



Water Hyacinth



Cabomba



Fanwort

OATA (Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association) have tried to prevent this Order and you can read their comments in their Annual Report. It is 25 years since the Trade Association was set-up by Keith Davenport – he has now retired and the new CEO Dominic Whitmee, has published their first report.

Worth a read! See it at this link: click/tap [HERE](#)

Member Letters

Within last month's Newsletter, in **Goldfish News**, we said that Goldfish have a 12 week memory span (according to scientists) – which brought these thoughts by Alex Stephenson...

"Many people still believe Goldfish have very short memories. *This can't be true.* Think about it. 'Mother Nature' only has one requirement for any species – that the best individuals should survive long enough to establish the next generation.

To be successful an animal has to identify and find food while, at the same time, developing strategies to avoid predators. These, and many other things, like interaction with others of its kind, have to be learned and learning requires memory.

So, a memory appropriate for the species is essential and needs to last a lifetime. Even the humble Goldfish must be well equipped in this respect otherwise it would have ceased to exist long ago."

This month's Top Tip

Back in 1999 members visited Tommy Sutton and his tip was 'When sorting for nacreous colouration choose fish with patches of white because this leaves room

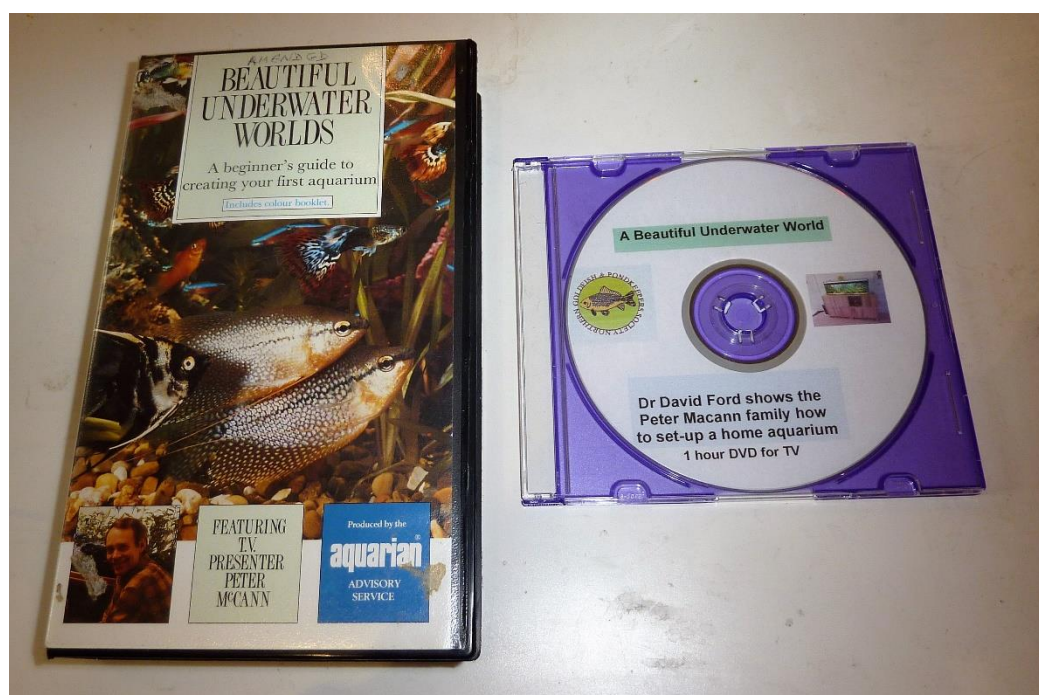
for the colour to come through'. Discussions at that time revealed some disagreement – the consensus was that Tommy's 'white' may really be patches of pearly white, often with just a hint of pink/blue. A true white patch may remain like that. Sadly, we can't ask him. You can see Tommy's fantastic fish in a video on the NGPS full website.

Don't forget – send your top tips to me in any format – drdmford@outlook.com

A Beginners Guide

The last thing members need is a beginners guide! But if friends or family note your enthusiasm for Goldfish and say they might be interested in setting-up an aquarium in their home, they will ask your advice, as an obvious expert. This may mean that you will get involved – even with maintenance!

Hence, giving them a Beginners Guide containing all the basics they need would be ideal. Such a Guide was recorded on (now) old-fashioned VHS Tape several years ago, by my (David Ford's) Mars Fishcare firm. It involved me showing the family of Peter McCann (who was a presenter in the BBC's Tomorrow's World – remember it?) how to install a home aquarium. And how to maintain it.



As you can see, I have digitized the video and recorded it on a DVD for playing on a PC or DVD to TV player. Because of copyright problems I cannot copy and sell this Disk – but I can give it away free! Hence, if you want a copy for those friends

or family wanting advice, just ask me (at drdmford@outlook.com) for a copy – it is free. Has to be.

A Show Report

The Show is this year's PATs at Telford (was same time as our Nationwide OS). This is the 'Pets and Aquatics Trade Show', held at Sandown in March and Telford in September, yearly. The Show is only for the Trade (you need to register to attend) but still attracted 2,000 visitors and hundreds of stands by pet product sellers from all over the world. However, the biennial AQUA has taken all the aquatic trade (their next Trade Show is also in Telford, October 2017). There were only two aquatic stands at PATS – a small display by Tetra on a distributor's stand and aquarium accessories by the Italian Company 'Hydor'.



The Hydor stand had a range of units that produced bubbles lit by coloured LEDs.



They incorporated these 'volcanoes' in various plastic scenes called 'Ocean Wonders', 'Magic World', 'Earth Gems' etc. Here is just one example ('Atlantis')...



Novel, even attractive, but heaven knows what a Goldfish would make of it.

Minutes of the November Meeting

It was a short meeting because there was a warning of heavy snow on the Pennines...we just had a drink and a chat at The Church Inn and left early.

David Ford reported that Aquarama in Singapore (remember the report in the July 2016 Newsletter – this will not be online until next year) explaining that, after 25 years, the biennial Aquarama exhibition (that we have visited) has moved to China. The Singaporees have resurrected their famous Show, now called 'AquaRealm' at the Temasek Polytechnic, 15th to 18th June 2017. The press release can be read by clicking/tapping this link: [HERE](#). Members with postal copies of the Newsletter will get a paper copy attached.

**Next meeting at the Church Inn, Prestwich, is 8pm,
Tuesday, December 13th - see you there.
Bring your Xmas cards.**

