



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



DECEMBER 2016



Goldfish, Frankincense & Myrrh

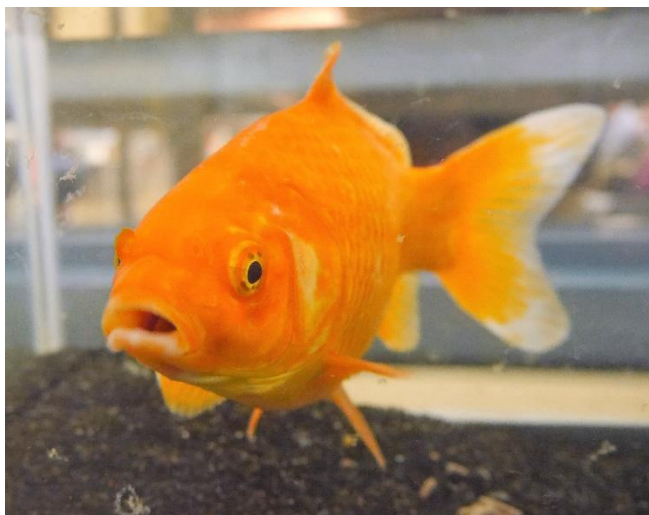
A very merry Christmas to all our members and their Goldfish

Now for 2016 News...

....and the latest news about our President. The operation he needs was cancelled just as he was leaving home to go to the Bolton Hospital. Typical NHS! Looks like a 2017 visit now, so all the best to him for then, meanwhile note his photo on page 4 – and tap/click it for more of his talents.

A Yorkshire Show

The last 2016 Open Show (and Auction) in Yorkshire is always by the Bradford & District AS under their YAAS Rules. The judges had our Nationwide Standards for UK to help them with the Coldwater Class (they just have 'Common Goldfish' and 'Fancy Goldfish'). Held in the rather splendid facilities of the Bradford Academy on Remembrance Sunday (November 14th) they chose these Firsts in the two Classes.



A Common and a Wakin.

It is worth noting that the club will be celebrating 70 years in 2017. They have the first Open Show and Auction of the year too – Sunday 14th May 2017, at the Bradford Academy (BD4 7QS).

This month's Top Tip.

You can add real plants in a Fancy Goldfish aquarium (they leave the plants alone, unlike Common Goldfish). This does mean you need to have lighting for at least 8 hours a day – it pays to have white sand rather than traditional brown too. Photosynthesis is aided by the reflective glow.

To make the changes, use a gravel-cleaner to siphon out the existing (traditional brown) sand (if you have gravel, you – and the Goldfish – have a problem!).

As shown below, the gravel cleaner will suck out all the old sand into a bucket for disposal. Can even be done without moving the fish or decorations.



After the base is emptied (useful water change too) dribble back well-washed, fine, white sand...above are the two types (old & new) side by side.



Siphoning the sand out.



Dave's Aquarium at Bolton sell a 2Kg bag by Unipac Petcare, about 500 μ size, white Silica (Note: Silica, *not* Coral!) for just over £5, which is enough for each 2 feet x 1 foot base area (60x30 cm) to about 1" (2.5cm) depth.

You can now remove those plastic ones and plant a real underwater garden. The soft, white sand will hold the roots – no need for Lead weights or plastic plant pots (but these may help if floaters become a problem). Valisneria especially thrives in white sand, sending out lots of daughter plants.



Be an underwater gardener, it's fun, and your Goldfish will benefit too.

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

A man of many talents

Our President may be 90 years old now – but he can still squeeze a tune on his accordian...



Click or tap on his photo to link it to YouTube and it will play his renditions for 5 minutes (original audio-tape lasts nearly an hour!). Bill has also recorded Goldfish advice on tapes – these will be featured in future Newsletters. Postal members cannot get these – sorry, get a smart phone!

Goldfish News

Everything is Online these days, even Goldfish News. Amazon support websites that promote theirs and one of these sites is 'The Goldfish Bowl' (in the USA, of course). Their website is: -

Yes, Goldfish without the i. Click or tap here: <http://www.goldfish.com> or add 'www.goldfish.com' in Google or Bing etc. search engines (or in your website page) and you will find a Forum with literally thousands of comments on just Goldfish.

Pond News



The same Online Forums to help fishkeepers include Ponds – but they tend to be by country (ours is via Practical Fishkeeping magazine, or part of FK - <http://www.fishkeeping.co.uk/>). The best one, with hundreds of thousands of comments and advice is at <https://www.pond-life.me.uk>. To participate you need to sign-up with your email address and an invented password, but it does not involve cost. You might then get adverts for pond items! (But you can always create a new email address just for such sites.)

Members Write

Dean Roberts (our Show Secretary) has finally completed building his new Fish House and wrote the story for us...

"Despite keeping fish for nearly 20 years, I have long felt that my present facilities in my Fish House were far inadequate and needed updating, as well as the Fish House building itself. My Fish House is an 18-foot detached brick garage that had a half Polycarbonate, half Asbestos sheet roof and a metal up and over door. All the tanks (over 40) were all independent, most with individual internal power filters. They ranged in size from 4 feet in length, down to 12 inches and were housed on metal Dexion racking and various metal stands which, after 15 years, were rotten with rust and in danger of collapsing.

This setup had always put me at a disadvantage when it came to breeding fish because I had restricted light and had no water drip system. There were no large tanks for the baby fish to grow, making my fish slow growing and slow in development.

In late May of this year I came into a little money and decided to spend it all on

bringing my fish house up to date. I employed the services of a local company and, after some extensive hassling over the price for the job, they agreed to fit a new roof and a new roller door for the price of £4,300. They fitted a Polycarbonate roof and a brand new 'Hormann' Roller Door – and they made an excellent job, of which I was very pleased.

This gave my Fish House much more light and made it much warmer. Meanwhile I had set about the task of sourcing some new tanks and worked out a deal with a Preston-based company called 'Aquariums for Life'. They supplied six 4-foot x 8 inches drilled tanks, delivered for £670. When they arrived they were stored, under cover, up the garden, while I started the job of ripping everything out of the Fish House. There were 15 years of collected and hoarded rubbish, plus the tank racking and stands – all ready to collapse! I cleaned each side of the Fish House after moving the fish to the other side of the Fish House.

I then set about obtaining the wood to the right lengths for building the stands. I thought that if I could get a company that can supply the wood, build the stands and deliver them too, I could save a lot of time and effort. They could make a much better job of building better and stronger stands than I ever would. I found a company just a mile from my house that could supply these for me, so I ordered two 3-tier 4 foot stands and two 3-tier 6 foot stands which cost me £500, delivered. They were built to exceptional quality and strength so I was very pleased with them.

I had taken a week off work as a holiday so I could install them...firstly the two 4 foot stands were put into the Fish House and three tanks added, filled with treated water and the fish placed in them. I then removed the rest of the old metal stands and the rubbish, which was a horrendous job. Then installed the two 6 foot stands and placed a range of my old tanks back in as these were going to be homes for all my adult fish which did not need to grow anymore. They will be OK in these tanks, again with internal filters. My babies from last year, Pearlscales, Celestials and Orandas, were placed in the 4 foot by 2 foot by 8 inch tanks, making a total amount of 23 tanks in the Fish House. I sorted out a lot rubbish to keep what items I was going to need. Since the new Fish House was neat and tidy, I could store, find and use anything I needed. There is plenty of space for everything and now even the babies are growing fast.

I have not yet had the six new 4 foot tanks plumbed into a water drip system but will do shortly because I have the necessary fittings (purchased from the tank suppliers).

I must say that despite a lot of expense and hard work I am delighted with my new Fish House, the work on the new roof, the door and the quality of the new tanks and stands. I can now spend many hours with my babies, watching them grow with more speed, especially when the water drip system is set up."

Next are photos that Dean took during the work....



The new door and roof



The original metal stands – past their best!



The new wooden stands arrive and are installed

The letter was signed by 'J.D Roberts - one happy fishkeeper'. More pictures of Dean's set-up will be in next year's Newsletters.

Minutes of the December Meeting

The meeting started with apologies – from everyone! As last month, only the (part) committee (me & Sherridan) made it to The Church Inn. The problem is that many members are working shifts, suffering winter ills, or the bad weather and motorway congestion, is stopping visits. We discussed canceling winter meetings altogether, but decided it is best to await those apologies, and, if too many, cancel the meeting and let everyone know via email/letter....just for the winter meetings (January and February in 2017). If you can't get to the January Meeting please let Sherridan know at 'moores_s@sky.com' or ring 0161 969 7567 or text 07933732123.

The new Schedule for our 2017 Open Show was reviewed and amended. Work on this will continue. As for the Show date – as raised at the last meeting, moving the second Saturday in September to the third Saturday would help some members, but it would then leave only a week between us and the Nationwide OS, creating even more problems. So it was decided that the traditional dates have to remain.

Next meetings at the Church Inn, Prestwich, are January 10th and February 14th unless members cannot make it. Let Sherridan know.

