



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



February 2017



This month we start with the 'Pond News' feature – here is a simple DIY pond.

Pond News

Now is the time to consider building that pond you have always needed. No need to dig a hole in the garden with all the problems that brings. Just build a box with wooden planks, breeze blocks or house bricks and cement. The base can be slabbed, concreted or well compacted soil with just a cement foundation under the walls.

Then render water-proof with a liner. Just install and cut to fit. Hide it with a suitable capping if it needs to look decorative. Look on Amazon or ebay etc. and you will find the choices for pond liners are numerous and prices very variable.

The traditional liner is Butyl. This is a synthetic rubber with a name shortened from its constituents (a copolymer of isobutylene with isoprene). With rising oil prices and plunging £ this choice has become the most expensive – but the best choice if the cost is not a factor.

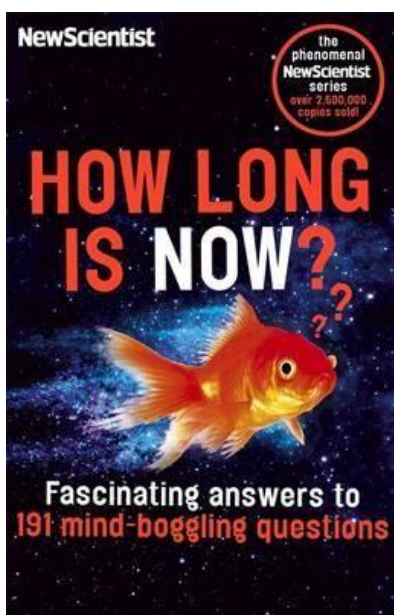
Much cheaper is PVC (polyvinyl chloride) but it becomes brittle below 8°C and can be affected by sunlight's UV rays. A suitable low cost choice if the pond is a temporary feature (a year or two). However, developments have given us polyester reinforced PVC (the treatment includes permanent dyes to give black, light & dark blue, dark green and light grey liners). The price goes up but is still only around £5 a square metre. But it has a guarantee of 45 years against frost and sunlight damage!

If you prefer to buy a fitted sheet, the manufacturers will heat seal a 'box' form to your measurements from the synthetic rubber called EPDM (ethylene propylene diene monomer). There are two competing manufacturers, Firestone (the tyre people) and SealEco Greenseal who make waterproof liners for roofing etc. Your choice. Prices are between the cheap PVC and the expensive Butyl. The best choice for a permanent pond – there is usually a lifetime guarantee.

Don't forget to pre-line the base...traditionally old newspapers are used. A better choice is soft sand (several inches thick). Where cost is not important, you can buy polyester liners – even heat sealed to your box measurement.

Every fish-house needs a nearby pond!

Goldfish News



Well, not really 'Goldfish News' – more 'News via Goldfish'.

The New Scientist magazine published a book last year that contained their Q & A's page. This is where readers ask for information on subjects that puzzle them and the magazine publish replies from the world's experts in that subject.

The front cover refers to the question 'Can you improve your attention span?'. The experts replied that humans are now showing an attention span less

than a Goldfish's - but this fact was revealed in our October 2016 Newsletter (click/tap it in the NGPS web pages for the full story).

The book is worth a read too.

Lego Fish



If you visit Maidenhead Aquatics you will find their range of Lego Models (Reef creatures) are being sold at 50% off. Not surprised, they range from £50 to £100 per model and even at half price they are not worth the cost (for a pennyworth of plastic).

Even worse – no Goldfish!

They are actually TMC's range from their limited edition of Reef Models by Lego....

These are based on an advertising display the Tropical Marine Centre took to international trade exhibitions, seen in the UK at the 2015 Aqua Show at Telford.....



Bill's Fish

Our president is still working on the audio tapes of his past experiences in breeding Showfish. He has a photo album of his best Goldfish – here is a few of them copied to our Newsletter...for nostalgic reasons! More next month.



Top Tips – Winter Feeding

There are advantages in Winter Feeding your Goldfish: better annual growth and disease resistance when Spring arrives. The published information on how to do this, however, is not complete (or accurate). This is a typical article on the subject copied from the Internet...

"Once the water temperature lowers to 70°F/21°C, your fishes' staple food should be mixed with a 'wheat germ base' that is lower in protein. When the water temperatures reach 60°F/15°C the staple food should be switched to wheat germ based foods exclusively. Proteins are much harder to digest than other nutrients. The wheat germ diet can continue to be fed all winter if the

water temperature doesn't get below 50°F/10°C. At 55°F/13°C the fish's metabolism starts to slow, reducing its intake requirements. *Once the water temperatures go below 50°F/10°C, it's time to stop feeding until spring.* Do not feed if there is any chance of the temperatures dropping below 50°F/10°C within a few days. Fish are not capable of proper digestion in cold water and the food can decay in their system, sending bacteria into the bloodstream and killing the fish."

All this is nonsense! Wheat Germ is 40% protein anyway. Because the published science (for edible fish-farming) says a lower protein is preferred in Winter, the petfish manufacturers saw a marketing opportunity and designed a Winter Feed using 'Wheat Germ' as a carbohydrate source to 'lower' protein content. The overall lower protein commercial fish-farmers use is because it is a maintenance diet during Winter, then, using a high protein food in Spring, it will give a boost in growth. There is no growth in the low temperatures of Winter, so why buy expensive protein? They buy a cheaper feed diluted with wheat or soya flours.

So, if you Winter feed, use the same foods you know the fish like, whether flake, pellet or live, etc. But do it sparingly – to prevent water pollution – the bacteria in any very cold filter body will be inactive too.

The fish will decide if they want the food, but if taken and it is undigested, it will just pass through. There is no scientific evidence that it stagnates, festers and then kills the fish. If this happened, all the fish in the wild would die when Winter arrives!

The above is for Pondfish – for fish-house collections, the environment can be controlled. Hence year-round feeding is possible via temperature control...however, the lighting needs controlling too. All photo-sensitive life on earth have seasonal changes as well as diurnal ones. It was once thought these responded to light intensity but is now known this is due to absence of light i.e. length of night. For example, the Autumn leaves fall because the darkness increases and photosynthesis reduces. It is believed that this applies to animals

too, hence our winter depressions. So do more than control the temperature for all-year feeding – you must keep the lights at summertime levels too. At least, use artificial lights beyond Winter's daylight periods.

Most breeders claim a period of 'cooling' is needed – if only a month long. To make this effective, switch to Winter period lighting as well as cooling to 10°C, and stop feeding too. Goldfish will then hibernate properly.

Restore temperatures slowly, increase the light period (which is actually reducing the dark period; that is really what triggers changes) and feed on whatever your fish like.

Note that all this is my (David Ford)'s opinion – as discussed in the January Meeting (see that Newsletter). At that time, Craig claimed Winter feeding did cause a 'bloat' in some of his fish. Sherridan said "light winter feeding with nutritious foods is very important and much better than leaving the fish to starve just because it's cold, a time when they need all the energy they can get". But what do you think, based on your personal experience rather than publications? Send to me at drdmford@outlook.com.

Trade News

In the Meeting Minutes last month Craig reported that Shirley Aquatics were on the move. They will relocate to <http://www.beckettsfarm.co.uk/> in September.



The Shirley Newsletter quotes:

"Say hello to the new Shirley Aquatics!"

From September 2nd 2017 Shirley Aquatics will be located in our brand spanking new, custom built, state of the art facility at Beckett's Farm. They say: There have been rumours afoot of us closing down or shutting up shop ... don't believe the hype! We are relocating to an amazing new premises, which will consist of two stories of awesomeness (Tropicals, Marines, Reptiles and dry goods).

A cold-water section of 4000 square feet and an 11,000 litre aquarium.

What's happening next?

Nothing's going to change, we will still be offering everything we have done over the past 78 years at our Stratford road superstore. Our website will be getting a face lift this spring. We will be having some amazing offers in January and February...a sort of We're not closing down sale! More details on the sale and other exciting news in our next newsletter"

We will need a club visit.

Hippurusophobia

Did you know that fear of Goldfish is a well-known phobia and treatments are published within the NHS? However, they do list it as Ichthyophobia – which is fear of all fish. Since the Latin for Goldfish is *Hippurus* I am assuming the right term should be Hippurusophobia.

It is known that most phobias stem from childhood. Since many children once had a goldfish pet, their loss, often under stressful circumstances (such as stepping on it after it has leapt out of the bowl), creates a lifetime problem.

Sad – but none of us suffer from hippurusophobia – more like hippurosophilia.

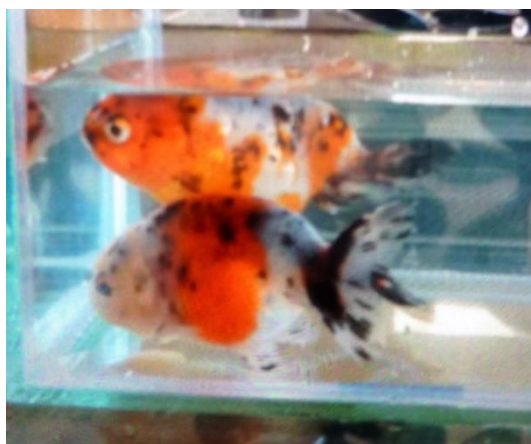
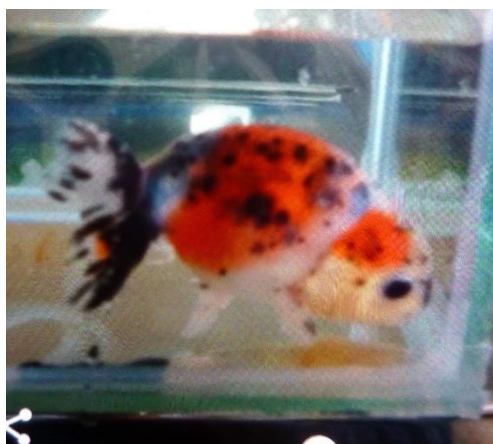


Well, our meeting day was February 14th.

Minutes of the February Meeting

Six members arrived – with apologies from Dean, Pat, Alan, David (Padfield) and our President...we hope Bill is feeling better soon.

Sherridan reported that no breeding has yet started (although Andy Barton had spawnings back on New Year's Day!). He also showed photos of some Calico Lionheads which it is hoped will develop a new line for NGPS. Stephen Whalley has a known pair. Here are photos taken from Sherridan's mobile, so the reproduction does not do the fish justice



Sherridan also showed a ceremonial teacup found on a street stall in Nantwich. It says it is a 'T2 Trumpet Cup' and dated07 (which could be 2007/1907/1807 etc. Decorated with Veiltails. No-one could even hazard a guess – if you know, email me.



Next meeting at the Church Inn, Prestwich is March 14th unless members cannot make it.

Let Sherridan know.

