



NORTHERN GOLDFISH & PONDKEEPERS SOCIETY

A Nationwide Society

NEWSLETTER



February 2018

Nationwide News

The Best in Shows so far ...



2014	2015
2016	2017



2018 will be here

The Wyken Community Centre,

Belgrave Estate, Coventry CV2 5PY on Saturday 6th October (has been confirmed). Which reveals the answer to Sherridan's Xmas Quiz, question number 16 – the first Nationwide OS was in 2014, Best in Show won by Pat Davies with his Breeders' Bristols (that I don't have a photo of!).

Competition winner was David Padfield who received a very large tub of FishScience Goldfish Flake from your Chairman in a ceremony at the February Meeting.

Here are the rest of the answers

Q.1 Name Goldfish varieties with animal names: Lionhead, Butterfly and (nobody saw it): the 'ant' in Fantail.

Q.2 The Goldfish in a Disney cartoon was called Cleo.

Q.3 It was Matisse who painted Goldfish.

Q.4 'Goldfish' was a novel by Raymond Chandler.

Q.5 The fat cat drowning in a Goldfish bowl by Thomas Grey led to the phrase 'All that glisters is not gold' (oft misquoted 'all that glistens...').

Q.6 Nemo is *Amphiprioninae ocellaris* the Clownfish.

Q.7 The Lecaré novel is 'Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Taylor' and *Tinca tinca* is the proper name of the Tench. No, no-one solved that one.

Q.8 The Hong Kong street is called 'Goldfish Street' in English.

Q.9 Ryukin is the name of a string of islands off the coast of Japan.

Q.10 *Carassius auratus auratus* of course.

Q.11 The eyes of Telescopic-eyed Goldfish are not telescopic (which means retractable).

Q.12 In the absence of light to trigger photosynthesis plants use a chemical process to grow that is similar to our own, producing carbon dioxide, not Oxygen.

Q.13 Remember the small 'Ditchfield Little Wonders' books? They included Goldfish guides.

Q.14 'Ants Eggs' where once all you could buy as Goldfish food. Dried Common Black Ant pupa, no longer collected and sold.

Q.15 Grass Carp were so-called because they were once packed in wet grass or hay to transport to markets.

Q.16 See above – can't believe it is 4 years ago.

Q.17 'Belle Vue' was once home to the British Aquarist Festival (you can read its history at www.fnas.co.uk or click <http://fnas.webplus.net/BAFhistoryForFNAS.pdf>)

Q.18 Churchill owned Goldfish in aquaria and ponds.

Q.19 The Yellow Iris is sometimes called the Yellow Flag.

Q.20 The Goldfish has a 'swim bladder' to maintain its water depth – the organ is full of ordinary air, which the fry need to take at the surface as soon as they hatch (which is why a shallow aquarium is best for hatching).

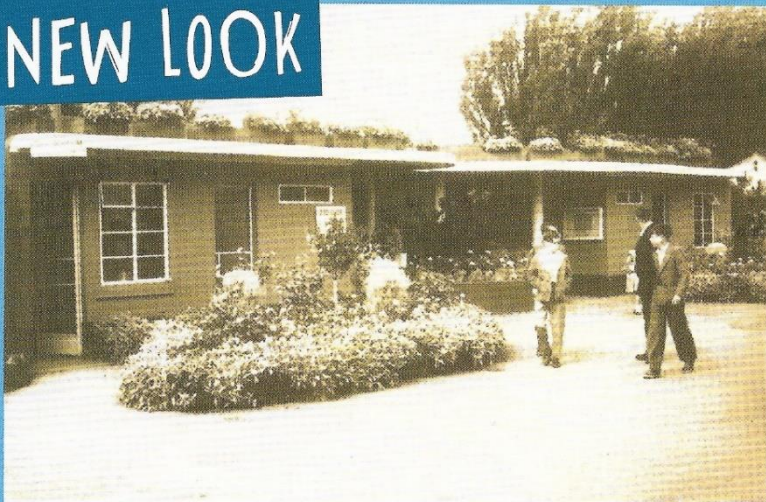
Chester Zoo Aquarium



Here is Steve Chester, a Lead Keeper at Chester Zoo Aquarium, lecturing at the Ryedale AS last year. He revealed that the 'Zoo without bars' was formed in 1930 with an aquarium added in 1952. The aquarium has a glass roof making the Zoo famous for its splendid aquatic plants.

Here is the latest news on that aquarium

NEW LOOK



FOR ONE OF THE OLDEST BUILDINGS IN THE ZOO

Nestled between the Realm of the Red Ape and the giant otter pool is one of the oldest buildings here at the zoo - the aquarium. This habitat for all things aquatic is 62 years old and this year we've carefully refurbished both the inside and outside of the building whilst still retaining the charm of this very special place.



SO WHY IS THIS PLACE SO SPECIAL?

This building was lovingly built by George Mottershead's daughter June and her husband Fred. They started building in 1950 outside of their normal working day so often worked late into the evening by lamp light. The building is supported by 130 pillars and June and Fred had to cast each pillar by hand. It took two years of blood, sweat and tears but eventually the aquarium was opened in 1952. When the aquarium was first built it featured an innovative design where the flat roof was flooded with water. It was populated with fish that could be viewed from below through glass hatches. This may have seemed like a good idea at the time, but before long reports were coming in of fish falling out of the sky as birds began to start carrying all the fish off, so the roof, thankfully, was then replaced.

WHAT'S NEW?

As the aquarium is 62 years old this year, we decided it needed a bit of a makeover. Over the past few months we've been updating this charming building which has included improving the viewing areas, tanks and interpretation. The work has enabled the aquarium team to bring in fantastic new species like the dwarf Indian mudskippers, provide new habitats for an array of critically endangered species like the damba fish from Madagascar and develop vital husbandry skills by bringing new corals into the aquarium.

chesterzoo.org

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If you would like to visit the aquarium, be aware that the entrance to the Zoo at the gate will be £22 ! If you bring the family it will cost more than a week's holiday in Spain. So go on-line and prebook – there are often special offers too during quiet periods. But you can visit half-price, see the Minutes on page 8.

Top Tips

More from Alan Ratcliffe – if you are out of fish food (or wish to make the expensive protein-rich ones go further) the crumbs at the bottom of the bag of breakfast cereal is liked by Goldfish and a good source of carbohydrates. The adult cereals, that is ... not the sugar-coated kids varieties (which will be banned anyway, eventually).

Goldfish News

The Goldfish is featured in the 'Outlook' programme on the BBC World Service – it is a 15 minute interview with Peta Clarke (Peta is pronounced Peter, which must cause some confusion). If you have the BBC Radio App (and registered, of course) you can see 'Training a Goldfish for the Big Screen' with its audio, at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05vb89g>

She is the top animal trainer in Australia for TV, Film and Theatre. She trained a Goldfish to jump through hoops. This was done by associating feeding with a flashlight being switched on. The beam and treat was beyond the hoop with the Goldfish receiving nothing if it swam around the hoop. The fish soon caught on ...

NGPS Websites

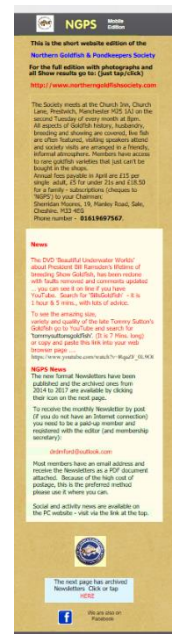


All the 2017 Newsletters are now online for reading or downloading, go to:

<http://ngps.webplus.net/newsletters.html> . Every

issue since December 2013 is there; earlier Newsletters are being digitized separately, a huge job that will take awhile. The full computer style website www.northerngoldfishsociety.com also has the complete set from 2013 (December anyway) to December 2017.

(These photos of each webpage are for the few members who are not online – you need to do something about that!)



Members Write

Ian Mildon has asked for this letter to be published for members to read – and if you are interested please let Tommy McLean or Ian know...

Kingyo Adventure 2019

"Following my visit to Japan I have been approached recently by Ian Mildon and Graham Turner expressing an interest in going on a Goldfish related visit to Japan. As it will take a lot of organising to set up enough Goldfish visits for a dedicated trip I have been advised by Inside Japan Tour Company it would be difficult to arrange this for 2018.

If there is enough interest, we propose organising a trip for any Goldfish keeper (not just GSGB members) in October/November 2019.

Although no arrangements have yet been made the current idea is to have a two-week trip departing on Thursday 24th October and returning on 7th or 8th November.

The itinerary of the trip will include the Nihon Ichi Kingyo Show in Yatomi on the 27th October and the All Japan Ranchu Championship in Tokyo on the 3rd November plus hopefully one or two other shows.

There will also be visits to Commercial Goldfish Farms plus Goldfish Breeders and wholesale auctions. There will also be some opportunities to do some sightseeing. Cities and Towns visited are likely to include Tokyo, Hamamatsu, Nagoya Yatomi, Kyoto and Koriyama.

At the moment it is not possible to be exact on the cost of such a trip, but the Travel company have suggested it will probably be in the range £3,000 - £4,500.

If you are interested, please e-mail me at t_w_mclean@yahoo.co.uk

I am sure this would be a trip to remember.

Tommy McLean"

(note – if Tommy's email is copied by pen rather than 'tap/click' there are underscores: t_ and w_)

PracticalFishkeeping

The monthly magazine has been running a campaign against dyed ornamental fish for years. This month they decided to extend the advertising into the commercial publications for the pet trade.

Their full page advert has appeared in the trade papers, such as Pet Product & Marketing. This is reproduced below and explains all. The problem seems to be exclusive to the Tropical Fish trade, there is no evidence of dyed Goldfish – so far.

If you see any, send details to me at drdmford@outlook.com and I will let the Practical Fishkeeping people know.



COMMON SPECIES SUBJECT TO INJECTION AND DIPPING

- Albino corydoras
- Glass fish, *Parambassis* sp.
- Parrot cichlids
- Black widow tetra
- Giant gourami

WHAT'S WRONG WITH INJECTED FISH?

Fish can be artificially coloured in a couple of ways – **Dipping** or **Injecting**

DIPPING: Fish have their mucous layers stripped, before dunking in concentrated dyes to turn them into artificially bright colours.

- ▶ Fish are dyed all over including the gills, causing **respiration issues**.
- ▶ Ink in the body can have serious **effects on organ function**.
- ▶ Stripping away mucus leaves fish **open to bacteria and parasites**.

INJECTING: Fish are stabbed with a needle, and dyes injected. They may have patterns or words tattooed on the body.

- ▶ Against fish body sizes, needles are huge. **Imagine your arm being injected with a pencil** for a comparison.
- ▶ Injection sites are **access points for infections**.
- ▶ **Needles are not cleaned or sterilised**, risking infection.
- ▶ Chemical embolisms from injection can **cause fatalities**.
- ▶ Injecting causes granulomas, tumours and **cauliflower like growths**.
- ▶ The dyes cause **inflammation of skin and muscle tissues**.
- ▶ Injecting requires rough handling which is **highly stressful**.

ARE THEY LEGAL?

It IS illegal to dye a fish through dipping or injection in the UK, but NOT illegal to import or sell fish them. Almost all dyed fish are commercially produced in the far east, and imported directly.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Retailers are invited to join up to the Practical Fishkeeping Dyed Fish Campaign. Started in 1996, the campaign asks retailers to pledge not to sell any dyed fish.

Those in the aquatics trade can influence the whole market, educate their customer base and, in doing so, eradicate this needless practice.

A Moor Problem



A fishkeeper with a new Moor contacted me claiming that the fish had 'cognitive problems' in that the fish would only feed if placed in a bowl rather than its aquarium.

(The original email is a video – the fish discovers the food pellet, eventually.)

My explanation is that Moors are bred to have telescopic eyes and this gives them poor eyesight. To find food they will rely on water vibrations felt along the lateral line – which would be difficult in the large water volume of the aquarium, but location will be easier in a small bowl, especially if the only fish present. It is not a personality problem – just that these fish are practically blind. Do you agree?

Comment to: drdmford@outlook.com .

Pond News

Last year the following pond plants were added to the list of plants that can no longer be sold in the EU:

American Skunk Cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*).

Cabomba (*Cabomba caroliniana*).

Curly Waterweed (*Lagarosiphon major*)

Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)

Perhaps they will be back again after Brexit? For the record the complete list of EU banned aquatics plants are (including the above):-

- Water Fern (*Azolla filiculoides*)
- Parrot's Feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)
- Floating Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*)
- Australian Swamp Stone Crop (New Zealand Pygmyweed) (*Crassula helmsii*)
- Water Primrose (*Ludwigia grandiflora*)
- Floating Primrose Willow (*Ludwigia peploides*)
- Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)

- Cabomba (*Cabomba caroliniana*)
- Curly Waterweed (*Lagarosiphon major* often called *Elodea crispa*)
- American Skunk Cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*)
- Alligator Weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*)
- Nuttall's Waterweed (*Elodea nuttallii*)
- Giant Rhubarb (*Gunnera tinctoria*)
- Broadleaf Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*)

More Pond News

It even made the BBC News that Australian scientists have 'discovered' that adding a little salt to a pond will prevent the frogs dying (from a fungal disease called chytridiomycosis) – something we pondkeepers could have told them!

February Minutes

David Ford reported that our President Bill Ramsden has been given the all clear by the Bolton Hospital and returned home. He has now finished his latest article (How to Build a Fish House) and it will be featured in the March Newsletter.

David also reported on a lecture given by the Chester Zoo Aquarium staff (see the article on page 2 & 3). At this meeting he arranged for members to visit the aquarium, with a look behind the scenes. This will be on Saturday March 17th when it is Open Day for members of the Zoo. Sherridan is a member, so contact him (mobile: 07933732123) and he will be able to take you into the Zoo at half price – meeting time will be emailed to you nearer the date.

The memories of Derek Mills were talked about, a sad loss to the breeders community.

The proposed Members Meeting on Saturday April 21st at St Matthews Hall was also discussed. It was decided that the proposed Lunch, Table Show, Lecture(s), etc., will be finalised at the next meeting, so please attend with your thoughts then....

.... at the Church Inn, Prestwich March 13th - unless members cannot make it. In that case, let Sherridan know.

