

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



FEBRUARY 2019



We are a Pondkeeper Society

Probably the only one in the UK! The other members of the Nationwide Goldfish Societies are not and the only UK fish club that includes a Pondkeeper section was the Ilford & District Aquarist & Pondkeepers Society, which no longer holds meetings.

There are (of course) lots in the USA (and a few in Canada) – to see an example (the above photo was taken from their website) [click/tap here](#) –

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/home/outdoor-projects/how-to/a661/2770526/>

It is from a decade ago but was in the Popular Mechanics Series and has some very good photos and diagrams on building 'a pond in your back yard'. If any of our members are planning to build a pond – let me know so we can record it and publish it in our online Newsletter. For posterity.

As promised, the 2019 Show dates for your calendar.....

Diary Dates (always subject to changes but these will be reported in the NGPS Newsletters).

AMGK Show Coventry – Saturday June 29th

NEGS Show Sunderland – Saturday July 20th

Bristol Aquarists Show – Sunday September 1st

NGPS Show Manchester – Saturday September 14th

Nationwide Show Coventry – Saturday October 5th

Other Shows that have a Goldfish Class:-

Ryedale OS & Auction on Sunday April 28th at Kirby Misperton Village Hall, Malton, N.Yorks, YO17 6XN.

Bradford & District Aquarist Society at Bradford Academy, Lister Avenue, Bradford BD4 7QT on Sunday May 12th and again Sunday November 10th.

The Yorkshire Association of Aquarist Societies hold annual Shows and Auction at The Village Hall, Stockton on the Forest, Nr York YO32 9UJ on Sunday June 30th and Sunday August 11th.

The Federation of British Aquatic Societies no longer hold their Festival Weekend but Club Shows continue – see www.fbas.co.uk - and the Federation of Northern Aquarist Societies no longer hold the British Aquarist Festival (see details at www.fnas.co.uk or new site for smartphones at www.fnas.uk).

This Month's Top Tip

At the Aquatic Stores you can buy Oxygenating Tablets, Phosphate Removers, Nitrite & Nitrate Reducers, Ammonia Neutralizer, Heavy Metals Protectors, and so on. None are needed because *The Solution to Pollution is Dilution*. Just do a water change – continuously if you have a Fish House (and not metered!).

Goldfish News

Last year, in Japan, the Wakin was chosen for scientific studies of the Genome of the Goldfish – the results have been published in English, but might as well be in Japanese if you try to read it! However, the reported Husbandry was interesting:

"Goldfish husbandry started with fertilized goldfish eggs incubated at 20°C. After 3 to 5 days post-fertilization, hatched goldfish larvae were fed brine shrimp (*Artemia*) twice per day. The water in tanks for larvae was changed with fresh water incubated at 20°C every week. After 14 days goldfish were fed pellets once per day. The water in tanks for adult goldfish was changed with fresh water every month. All procedures using goldfish were approved by the Animal Experimental Committees of the Institute for Protein Research at Osaka University (approval ID 29-03-0), and were performed according to the Guidelines for Animal Experiments of Osaka University."

Alex Stephenson

You may recall in the November Newsletter last year we published a memorial to long-time member Alex (15th August 1938 to 8th October 2018) and that we plan to print some of Alex's contributions to *The Aquarist & Pondkeeper* in future issues of the Newsletter. With his lifetime of experience with Fancy Goldfish breeding we are sure it will be informative.

During searches for those articles, it was discovered that he was featured in the magazine's 'Famous Faces in Fishkeeping' – here is the page, (68) in the September 1998 issue, edited by Dick Mills (FBAS).

Famous Faces in Fishkeeping

A&P: How long have you been in fishkeeping and what started you off?

AS: When I was a lad the Rag 'n' Bone Man used to give away Goldfish in exchange for old rags, cast-off clothing and any other junk you threw out. In 1949 (when I was 11) my first Goldfish gained this way only lasted a few days. Disappointed at finding that fishkeeping was no fun I got hold of a book, acquired some advance knowledge and sallied forth to a dealer's and bought some healthy stock.

A&P: Can you remember your first aquarium and what you kept in it?

AS: My father made me my first aquarium. Working to my precise requirements (a 24x12x12in tank), he eventually produced a 16x9x10in aquarium made from a stainless steel frame and bottom sheet with 32 ounce glass panels puttied in. Although it wasn't even completely 'square' it proved to be indestructible and I still use it today. Good old dad, he knew what he was doing! Into it went my one Goldfish but I soon progressed on to several tanks.

A&P: What are your special interests?

AS: Throughout my fishkeeping life I have tried many things; at one time I had an interest in Angelfish, Barbs, Fighters and Danios as well as Goldfish. However, at no time have I ever been without a Goldfish and it has become my all-consuming passion.

A&P: Are you into breeding?

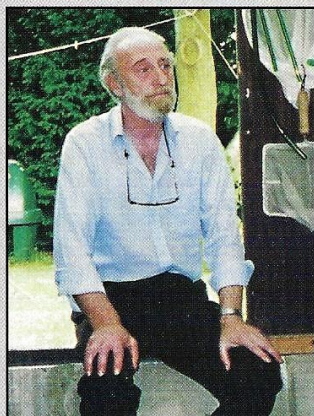
AS: Very much so. Every species of fish (see previous answer) I have kept has provided its own particular challenges and difficulties. The challenge with Goldfish is simply enormous especially with the Fancy Varieties. The more 'exotic' you go the less chance you have of producing quality fish as each time produces a different brood to the previous lot — you can never rest easy or presume anything!

A&P: Do you belong to any Aquatic Society?

AS: With my Goldfish leanings it should be no surprise to learn that I am a member of several organisations catering for this species and its devotees. I am a member of the Goldfish Society of Great Britain, The Northern Goldfish and Pondkeepers Society, The Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers and the North East Goldfish Society from which I glean as much practical information as I can. On a local front I am a member of Thorpe & D.A.S. of Norwich.

A&P: What do you think about Fish Shows?

AS: I enjoy them enormously. I get to see everyone else of a like-minded nature and can exchange ideas, see other fishes, get up to date with latest developments, see who is breeding what, and so on. I may only see such people a few times a year so I try to make the most of every opportunity I get. On the other hand I don't believe my fish enjoy it quite so much. I try to rotate my fish rather than expose a few to constant Showing through the season. I keep my best ones for the major Shows. I find that



A&P meets the faces behind the names and lets them tell you of their own individual aquatic interests.

This Month:
ALEX STEPHENSON

some fish cope with the stress better than others, although I cannot pin it down to juveniles or any particular strains or sizes of fish. The only thing I have noticed is that adult females do not appear to travel as well as males.

A&P: If money was no object what aspect of the hobby would you like to follow?

AS: Well, I have several ideas — some personal and some (I hope) constructive. On the personal front I would employ someone to get up for me at 4am to deal with those early spawnings and also to come back in October to clean out my pond — let them freeze their things off instead of mine! On a more serious side I would love to develop equipment purely with the Goldfish (or coldwater) fishkeeper in mind. A particular idea I've had for a long time (and it's about time someone took it up) is an inexpensive pond heater/thermostat set to say 50-70°F instead of the usual factory-set 70-80°F. Don't manufacturers know of this niche in the market?

A&P: What fish would you never keep and why?

AS: I have no real answer to this but it does annoy me when I see people with a 3ft tank going out and buying a 2in fish which they know will outgrow the tank. It's insanity and the fish deserve more respect than that. I believe in doing my homework first on any fish's needs and then sticking to it and providing it wherever possible. On the other hand, I see no real damage

coming from taking native fishes for home captivity, as long as you can provide what they need; I believe the real damage to wild stocks comes from destruction of their natural habitats, not the removal of a few specimens.

A&P: What's your favourite aquarium book?

AS: When you have as many books as me, which have been collected over many years, it's a difficult question to answer. Books vary, with some being very good. I find I dip into many of them, depending on what I want to find out. When all is said and done each book is only a collection of the author's opinions anyway and these are likely to change as progress and further knowledge is acquired. For a modern, generally enthusiastic aquarist I find that the Baensch Mini Atlas range fulfils everything you'll need to know. As for me, in my obsessive world of Goldfish, my all time favourite has to be *The Goldfish* by Hems and Hervey: a wonderful fish book with genuine literacy and poetry thrown in too. I know it's out of print but someone like Stephen Simpson could well find a copy of it for you.

A&P: How do you think fishkeeping is keeping up with other modern day attractions?

AS: Instant gratification is the curse of the modern day. There are so many 'temptations' for youngsters too with videos, computers and all the other electronic paraphernalia on offer. Fishkeeping is many hobbies in one, which is a good reason for its continuing (albeit apparent low level) popularity. It can range from one 'pretty' aquarium as a lounge decoration or it can become a lifetime's absorbing hobby — I think I may have caught the bug well and truly! In all the years I've been associated with fishkeeping I've yet to meet anyone who genuinely knows all there is to know.

A&P: What do you get from fishkeeping that keeps you interested?

AS: I have to repeat it yet again — the challenges. These keep fishkeeping alive for me (and some might say fishkeeping keeps me alive too!) I have great ambitions to continually improve my own fishkeeping and, if I could be allowed another 100 years, I might even come close to getting good at it.

A&P: What's next in your fishkeeping plans?

AS: To continue as I am, improving on what I have been and keeping and breeding Goldfish into the future. However, I won't lose sight of the fact that there are other fishes too and I will also try a few 'trops' from time to time to keep my hand in and keep up with developments in this area too. Whilst I might well be considered as a genuine 'fish nut' by those that encounter me, I shall remain faithful to the Goldfish, despite it needing ever increasing tank/pond space to produce worthwhile stock. If someone says "That's a good fish, Alex" I will feel over the moon — but then I'll wonder what I'll have to do to get an even better one!

So the content can be read on a smart phone's small screen, the text is copied below.....

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(Ed: We are all so sorry Alex was not granted those 100 years – but his legacy will live on with more articles in future issues of the NGPS Newsletter.)

Minutes of the February Meeting

There were six members at the meeting (which is good for a February!) and Sherridan circulated a copy email from Andrew Barton about Nationwide. A Nationwide Committee meeting was requested but no-one felt that the 'matters arising' warranted the cost and time of a Sunday visit. It was left for Sherridan to discuss this decision with the Nationwide Committee members by 'phone.

The problem of where to re-site the NGPS Show Aquariums has not been solved – again it was left with Sherridan to contact Helen at St Matthews, with an offer for a delegation to visit her to explain the difficulties and seek a solution.

No spawnings were reported, except the Stephen Whalley Lionheads. These are shown below and he needs to sell them to release tanks. Excellent pedigree Goldfish at a member's reduced price – give him a ring if you are interested on 01257453697 (or 07546849570). He lives in Ulmes Walton, Leyland, worth a visit to include the excellent Aquarium shop run by Steven Spencer in the nearby Garden Centre.



Stephen (Whalley) has recently been in contact with Northants Koi – who import Fancy Goldfish, and recommends them. Here are their details...

Northants Koi Ltd is run by Steven Bason, a Koi enthusiast who has been dealing with Koi for 25 years, he has vast knowledge about Koi, filtration systems and Koi health and quarantine. Steven's passion for fish, particularly Koi started when he was around 15 years old, visiting his pap's pond regularly. His own father was a very keen Koi enthusiast too, where he taught him how to look after Koi and keeping the water healthy. Steven built his first pond around 15 years ago, this was one of many. Over time each pond improved with better filtration systems, providing better care for the koi. Steven started off selling to family and friends but word spread about the quality of his Koi and Northants Koi Ltd was born. Each year the business has grown and grown and we now have a large customer base who return each year due to our excellent quality fish and outstanding customer care.

Our latest expansion of the business now includes a large variety of fancy goldfish. The goldfish are hand-picked and careful consideration goes into the quality of the goldfish before being selected for resale. We are passionate about the health of our goldfish and a strict quarantine process is undertaken to ensure that only high quality, healthy goldfish are sold to our customers. This has proved extremely popular with new and old customers. Here at Northants Koi we always take extra time and care to try to supply customers with the highest quality goldfish and go that extra mile by supplying videos and pictures direct to the customer so they can see the quality of the fish for themselves. We are often able to

source a particular goldfish that a customer is looking for and always welcome any enquiries and try our best to find what the customer is looking for.

We offer a direct courier service around the UK and ensure that the goldfish are fully inspected prior to their departure, this is to ensure the goldfish remain healthy and ready for their new owner.

Contact Details

For further information please do take a look at our website and Facebook page. www.northantskoi.co.uk Tel No: 07902876004
<https://www.facebook.com/northantskoi/?ref=settings>

Current Goldfish Available

We have a large selection of handpicked of the following goldfish:

- Red and White Ranchu • Lionhead • Tri Colour Oranda (8-9 cm) • Panda Oranda (8-9cm) • Rose Tail Oranda (12-15cm) • Red Cap Oranda • Calico Ryukin • Calico Ranchu • Red and White Pingpong • Tri-Colour Moor • Japanese Tamasaba

We have the following stock on order to be delivered:

- Calico Ryukins • Oranda's (various colours) • Calico Demekin • Tri-Colour Oranda's (10-15cm)



This month is the 90th anniversary of the Bristol Aquarist Society, congratulations to all their members. Here are their Presidents over those years – you might remember a few!

Bristol Aquarists Society Presidents

1929	Dr Clarke	1957	S Davis
1930	J Day	1958/63	G Harper
1931/33	M R Porter	1964	E Dunstan
1934	G Gurnock	1965/68	J Savage
1935	H Gould	1969	H Jago
1936	W J Harper	1970	G A Kimber
1937	E Blunsdon	1971	By Committee
1938	M R Watson	1972/82	S Lloyd
1939	H Gould	1983/85	H C B Thomas
1940	R V Coombs	1968	J Day
1941/45	War Years	1987	V Cole/ S Lloyd
1946	R V Coombs	1988/90	J Day
1947	H A Amos	1991/93	R A Jones
1948	E Blunsden	1994/96	J Day
1949	K Friendship	1997	I Mildon
1950	H C B Thomas	1998/2001	J Day
1951	S Davis	2002	S Haggett
1952	R V Coombs	2003/12	J Day
1953	B Rudge	2013/15	T Waterhouse
1954	H C B Thomas	2016 – Still in office	N Coleman
1955	R V Coombs		
1956	V E Jones		

**Hope to see you on Tuesday March at 8pm at
The Church Inn, Prestwich M25 1AN.**

