

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



JANUARY 2021



**Happy New Year to all our members
(their Goldfish celebrate a different date)**



**Let us hope that in 2021 we will resume
showing our prize Goldfish varieties.**

Bill

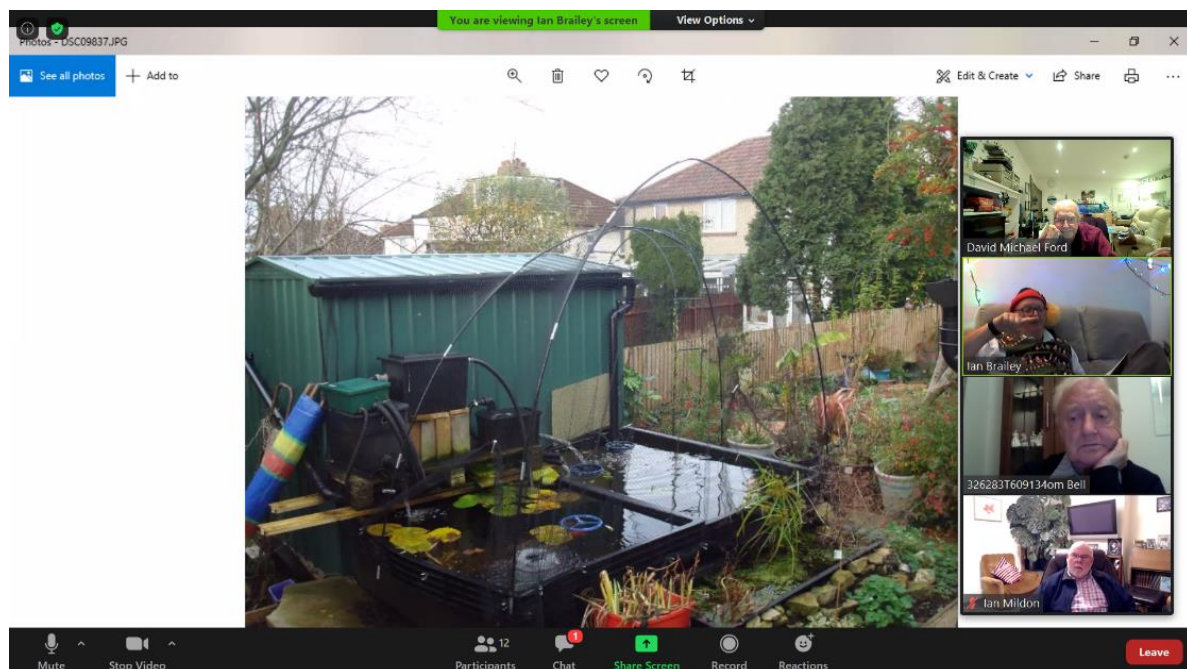
Our President, William Ramsden, has requested that his TV appearance (1990 on ITV) should be freely available to everyone on the internet. The problem is that the recording contains advertising – you cannot upload commercials (privately) to YouTube or Vimeo because they contain blocking apps. So, I have removed them, via a video program, and it did upload to Vimeo. See it at : <https://vimeo.com/489783679>



Picture for our postal members!

The Top Tip

The December Zoom meeting by Bristol AS had two lectures, one by President Ian Brailey who showed his plastic ponds. There was a problem with Goldfish being taken by some predator (heron, fox, rats?) so he decided to net the main pond. With so many garden plants there would be a problem with falling leaves. He solved that problem by making a tent (here is the Zoom photo):



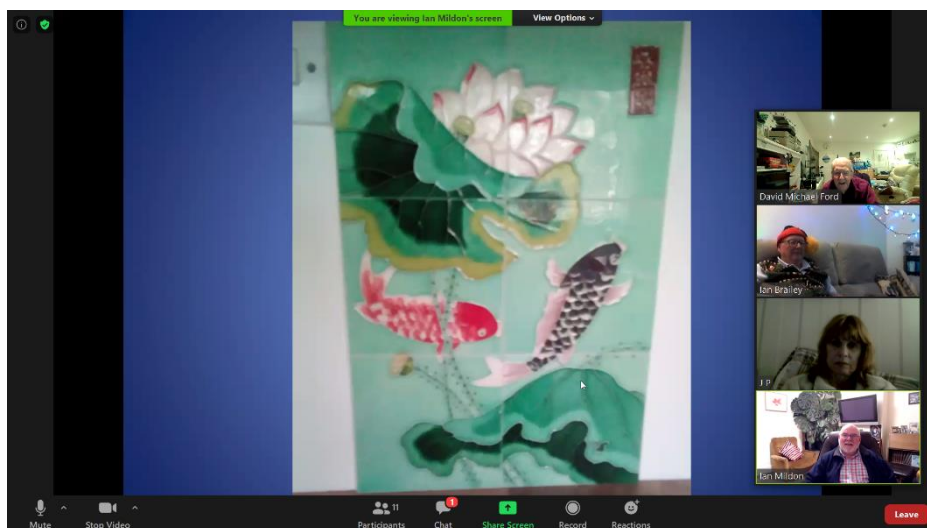
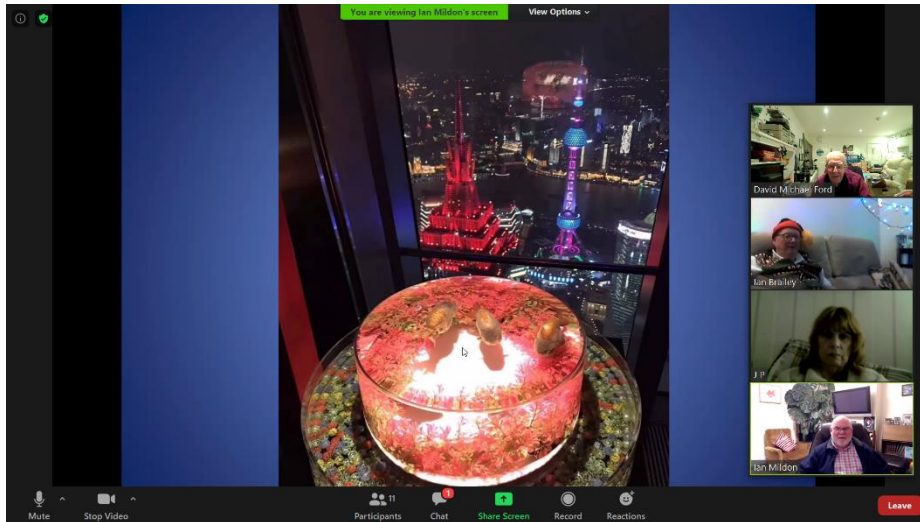
Using the poles from an old tent, he covered the ponds with plastic mesh.



A good tip to avoid the collection of leaves etc. on the traditional mesh cover, which eventually weighs it down, even below the water surface.

BTW – the other lecture was by Ian Mildon who showed his amazing collection of

Goldfish Memorabilia. Here are just two examples...



You can join these Online meetings, second Monday of each month at 8pm. Details are on their website: <http://www.bristol-aquarists.org.uk/> (see Events page).

Goldfish News

Last month the Daily Mail Online published a photo of a 9lb (4Kilos) Goldfish caught by a fisherman in a South Carolina pond. It was 15 inches long (38cm) and I have a photo of it but it says its copyright, so better not. You can see it, online at:

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9042597/Goldfish-weighing-9lbs-15-times-size-regular-pet-South-Carolina-lake.html>

More Tommy Sutton News

Further to the article from the 70's, featured in November 2020's Newsletter, here is an extended reprint of our last Society visit in 2003 with many more photographs taken, but not used at the time, which our much improved printing system now allows us to use.

Alas Tommy and all the fish are gone, so if you never got there at least you can see what once was.

As reported in the October Newsletter (2003) your Chairman and Dean Roberts recently visited Tommy Sutton's in Birmingham. They were pleased to have found Tommy (junior) looking fit, via a reduced work load - he has cut down on his varieties and has been selling off stock rather than spawning for the past couple of years - seems to be suiting him. He is planning to scale down his operation still further, spawning many fewer fry from a more limited number of varieties. He is stopping spawning and therefore selling: Scaled Veiltails (all stock now sold); Pearlscales (all stock now sold); Broad-tail Orandas (all stock now sold); Fan-tail Orandas; Moors and Jikins. He intends to continue with Fantails, Bristols and possibly Lionheads. He doesn't think he will do calico

Veils again as he considers they are the hardest variety of all to produce but will miss them particularly and so isn't totally ruling them out.

Dean purchased several beautiful fish, including the very last Broad-tail Oranda and your Chairman selected three fish for John Davies, who had not been well enough to make the journey himself.



Members who have never visited Tommy really are missing both a treat, because of the Goldfish they will see, and the opportunity to experience at first hand a major and unique part of the development and history of British Goldfish. For decades Tommy's late father, also called Tommy, supplied British hobbyists with high quality Fancy Goldfish from the thousands he bred each year.



There can be very few breeding lines of British goldfish that do not contain a large proportion of Tommy Sutton stock blood. Tommy's extensive establishment is situated in the large garden and substantial parts of

the surrounding house's gardens, which have been bought over the years, behind his large semi-detached house in Water Orton just outside Birmingham. First time visitors are always amazed by this arrangement as there is no clue or indication of any sort from the road outside as to what lies behind the houses.



Tommy's very last Oranda, bought by Dean. Entry is made via an unmarked wooden door in a high

piece of fencing at the rear of the house, exactly like countless other garden gates throughout the country. Once through the gate, though, you enter Goldfish

Wonderland. A path takes you over a small bridge spanning an informal pond and on to the first fish house. All the fish houses were self-built by Tommy senior and Tommy

junior and, though different shapes and sizes look similar inside consisting of concrete walled vats beneath and thick angle iron framed tanks supported on substantial cylindrical posts above.

The picture of the interior of the Fantail House gives a good general impression of both the size and construction of the fish houses, though



most of them have yet another tier of tanks built above the first layer. All the tanks are fitted with a drip and overflow water exchange system so there is a continual slow through-flow of fresh tap water. On leaving the first fish house the path takes you back down the side of it and into the second and biggest fish house, housing (up until

Tommy's recent cut backs in varieties) Moors, Scaled Veiltails, Lionheads, Pearlscales and Jikins. You exit at the back of this fish house (everything has to come through there) to the main part of the set-up where there is the long low Fantail House and the smaller Veiltail House and Oranda House and of course the ponds.

Tommy's pond area and Veiltail House (centre).





View from inside the Veiltail House.

Tommy has about a dozen large ponds approximately 25 feet by eight or nine feet and all quite shallow at about six inches, to give maximum surface area but to be quickly heated by the sun and not stay too cool, except for a small deeper area about two feet by three and a couple of feet deep for the fish to retreat into if threatened or cold. These ponds are flushed out by a hose every three days. There are also numerous smaller

ponds of similar construction wherever there is room for one.

The ponds are used for growing on only and their design certainly facilitates this, the fish are sold from the tanks in the Fish Houses.

At one time fish were sent out to order by rail, but these days this is not practical and you must visit to choose your own fish.

When you do, if you are above average height be prepared to be very careful not to bang your head on the roof or one of the many overhead pipes, the Suttons are of short stature and the building was made to measure for them.



Tommy's unique fish represent the culmination of dozens of generations of expert line breeding over many years and are therefore not cheap. Prices start from about £25.00 for the least quality and rise to many hundreds for the very best. Tommy will happily advise you as to the best fish for your needs. When you have decided your fish will be carried in a white washing-up bowl up to the back door of the house where Tommy will bag them up prior to your departure. If you are thinking of going remember entry is strictly by appointment only.

This is the end of the article, but here are a few photographs of their fish house and ponds....



Dean
choosing
his
Goldfish

Steps
into
Veiltail
house



They preferred long narrow tanks – iron frames in those days.



Ponds were netted

Of course, all this is now history – we won't be able to visit - but Tommy's Goldfish live on with many line breeders of Show Goldfish.

Tommy bagging his last Oranda.



Rantings from a glass fish house (by Sherridan)

Thankfully, we have seen the back of 2020 and here we are a couple of days into the

new year which does promise to be a better one in the long term in many ways and we may be able to hold our autumn shows.

Short term also we can now, as in any new year, enter any fish we breed into this year's baby classes. I'm afraid it won't be practical to arrange classes specifically for last year's babies but of course they can be put into the adult classes.

Last month I mentioned how our fish's behaviour is different as the days shorten and then lengthen again and I can report that mine are already much perkier, even though we have been going through a very cold period (they are on a little heat but the very cold nights will cause a greater dip than before) the days do get longer by 2 or 3 minutes each week so we are pushing ten minutes longer now.

I was watching a video on YouTube the other day by an English fish fancier, he

stated that one of his tanks had contained three Ranchu and one had recently died so he was going to buy another. He visited several local aquatic centres, which all seemed to have plenty of stock of the usual commercial varieties and chose an Oranda from a national chain's outlet (no names, but if you are curious you can find the video at: **CRAZY GOLDFISH FOR MY PLANTED AQUARIUM! THE NEW O'RANCHU CREW || MD FISH TANKS**).

He made a speech about not quarantining it because he trusted the chain so much and released the fish into his tank and then it could plainly be seen to be suffering from fin rot and velvet. **DO NOT BUY FISH SHOWING SIGNS OF DISEASE AND ALWAYS PRACTICE QUARANTINING.**

Happy new year.

Finally – one Xmas card worth seeing again.....

