

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



**APRIL 2021**

**Sad news to start our April News –  
here is a message from our  
Chairman.**

It was with profound sadness that I recently received a letter from Caren Roberts telling me the tragic and unexpected news of the death of her husband, David Roberts. David had been diagnosed with bowel cancer at Christmas and passed away on the 18th February.

David was a valued personal friend, an enthusiastic and dedicated successful

breeder, judge and a key committee member right at the heart of this society. His integrity, energy, and refusal to compromise his always high standards had become an essential part of the running of our Open Shows.

David was always passionate about his fish and specialized in Wakin and London Shubunkins, he was ever willing to help other members with advice or fish they may have needed. He will be sorely missed.

Our thoughts are with Caren and David's family at this difficult time.



The last meeting in The Church Inn before Covid shutdown – 2019 with from L to R **David Roberts**, Alan Birchenough, Louise Rylett, David Padfield, Bill Ramsden, Joanne Ramsden, Alan Ratcliffe and Sherridan Moores (I am behind camera).

President Bill presents **David Roberts** with his Class Winner at the last Open Show in 2019.



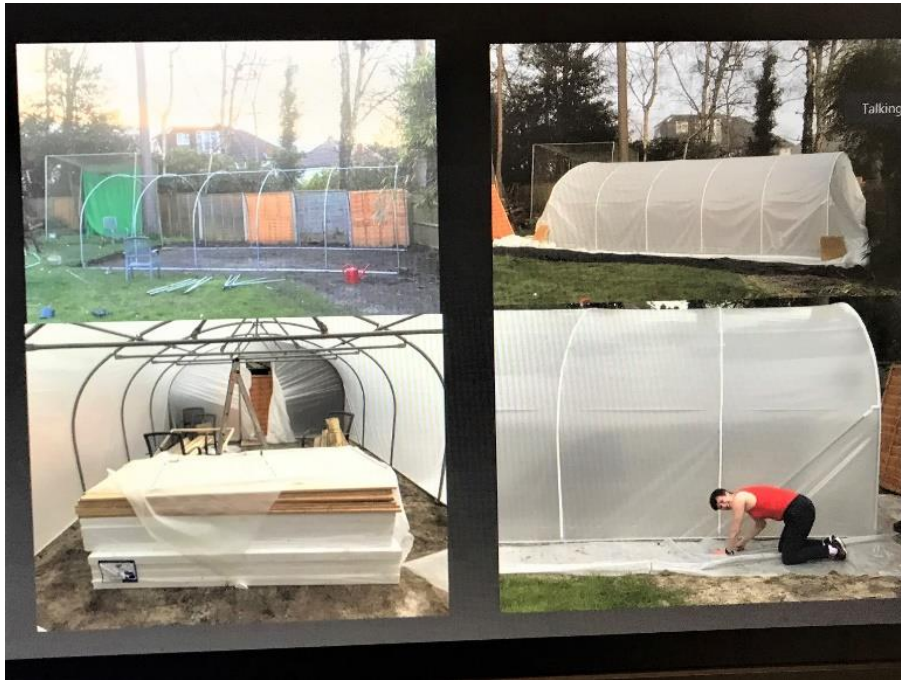


Sitting chatting with President Bill is **David Roberts** at the 2016 Open Show.

## **Bristol's Zoom**

Hope you logged-on last month, if not you missed an interesting lecture by their member Keith Mullin. He described his building of a Veiltail and Ranchu breeding set-up during lockdown.

Here is just one of his photos showing the tunnel breeding fish house set up during Covid lockdown .....



Tonight's BAS Zoom will be with a talk by Brian Young about his life with Goldfish:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86839775841?pwd=ODgwQ2ZmcDNkMHhuTi9yVW5YNVIZz09>

Or if you have the Zoom app: Meeting ID: 868 3977 5841 and Passcode: 708107 7.45 for 8pm, 12th April. Next month it is my turn! See May Newsletter.

# Pond News

The floating plant Pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* has been causing some problems for years but it is predicted to become a major one this summer.

Just one leaf with its stalk can start growth that will choke rivers and canals, causing



other plants to die and that pollution kills the fish.



Attempts to clear the plant are underway by various river authorities but

if just one leaf remains, regrowth will happen again.



It is the Brazilian variety that was imported as an ornamental pond plant and escaped into the UK countryside. At least it makes good fertilizer on land.  
Pennywort - don't buy it, don't use it!

## **Top Tip of the Month**

It was during the Bristol AS Zoom meeting that their Bob Jones said it is best not to spawn Show Goldfish after

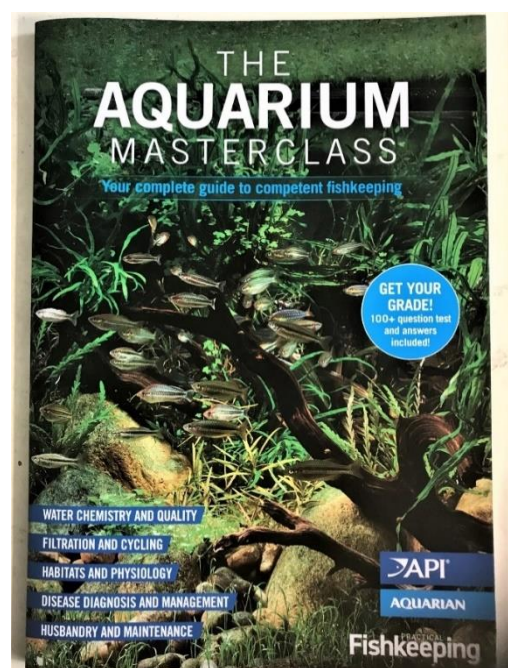
mid-July. The reason is that there is not enough time to grow the fry for showing that year or for the fish to develop enough for year two.

## **Aquarian® News**

Mars Fishcare have put their first Commercial on YouTube – all helps the hobby! See it at [Dive into your underwater world of fish with Mars Fishcare - YouTube](#)

Leave a comment – I did!

Furthermore Mars Fishcare sponsored the Masterclass series in Practical Fishkeeping magazine last year (a monthly series that





ended with a quiz on how much one has learnt about fishkeeping).

The whole series is now available as a booklet at £9.99, go to the Link shown below.....

[www.practicalfishkeeping.co.uk/store/reader-offers](http://www.practicalfishkeeping.co.uk/store/reader-offers)

Well worth a read for under a tenner. It is post free too (unless you live in Europe!).

## **Members Write**

Our Scottish member Malcolm Durie wrote:

My pond is coming back to life with the temperatures rising slowly. My existing pump is a Hozelock Easy Clear 6000 all-

in-one pump, filter and uvc, serving a 2000 litre pond, with a fair amount of sun. Last year it struggled a bit with the Goldfish waste load and I had to clean the filters every five days or so and this year it seems to be a bit lacking in power, even after servicing it and cleaning out the pond.

I am looking for recommendations as to the best type of pump/filter/uvc combinations and wondered if anyone in the club could help? The water temperatures are still around 6°C here in Scotland so the pump is coping just now but I think I really have to replace it before the temperatures rise.

(Can you advise Malcolm? Send comments to me at [drdmford@gmail.com](mailto:drdmford@gmail.com) to pass on to him).

## **Another Member Wrote:**

Tom Bell texted: A step further to the article by David Ford in the MARCH Newsletter, I decided to purchase the new issue of GOLDFISH STAMPS issued by SINGAPORE in November 2019. The sites can be found at [www.ebay.com/itm/274472619448](http://www.ebay.com/itm/274472619448). They are easy to find - this is the unfranked at \$8-50 which equates to £4-60 English Postage Inc.

If the discrete franked variety are required they are:

[www.eBay.com/itm/303686829106](http://www.eBay.com/itm/303686829106)

These are a little bit more at \$11-00 which equates to £6-00 post Inc.

I have included photographs of the Artist responsible for the stamps these were kindly supplied by Ian Mildon. He is a

member of the Singapore Goldfish Club and is on the extreme right of the banner including Ian holding the other end.

My one regret is I did not meet him as we could have had a lively conversation, me being a Signwriter doing Artwork and lettering on buses.

The stamps duly arrived and in my opinion are superb the only slight anomaly being the Celestial stamp it is shown with protruding eyes.

(Here are Tom's photos – the artist who designed the Singapore stamps is Ng We Yap – Vice President of the Vermillion Goldfish Club).





## Chairman's Notes

Spring is well in gear in the fish house now. Last years' late spawnings are all growing away again with some nice Veiltail and Lionheads developing. I have not yet prepared anything for spawning this year but will be making some choices soon.

The gales we had recently did cause some problems, blowing the blooming doors off again (they spend more time off

than on of late) and also blowing the roof vent window off, rolling it across the roof smashing another glass panel on the way. Looked like a bomb had gone off when I went in that morning, but no permanent harm done and all the fish were fine. I am now replacing all broken glass with polycarbonate sheets.

It is still too early to decide what shows we may be able to manage this year once lockdown has ended. but at least everything seems to be pointing in a positive direction now.

If any members are interested in any of Alex Stephenson' waterlilies please let us know as soon as possible. Also if anyone needs any tanks.

Ring me on 07933732123.

I had a recent conversation with Charles Ornstein who asked me to send his compliments to David Ford for his production of the increasingly interesting Newsletters. Well done David as always! (*Thanks – Ed*)

It's April again so 2021 subs now due. Stay safe, back soon.

