

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



**AUGUST 2021 - A POND ISSUE**



**A Pond-Aquarium!**

If you want to know how to build one like this, the whole story is on YouTube.

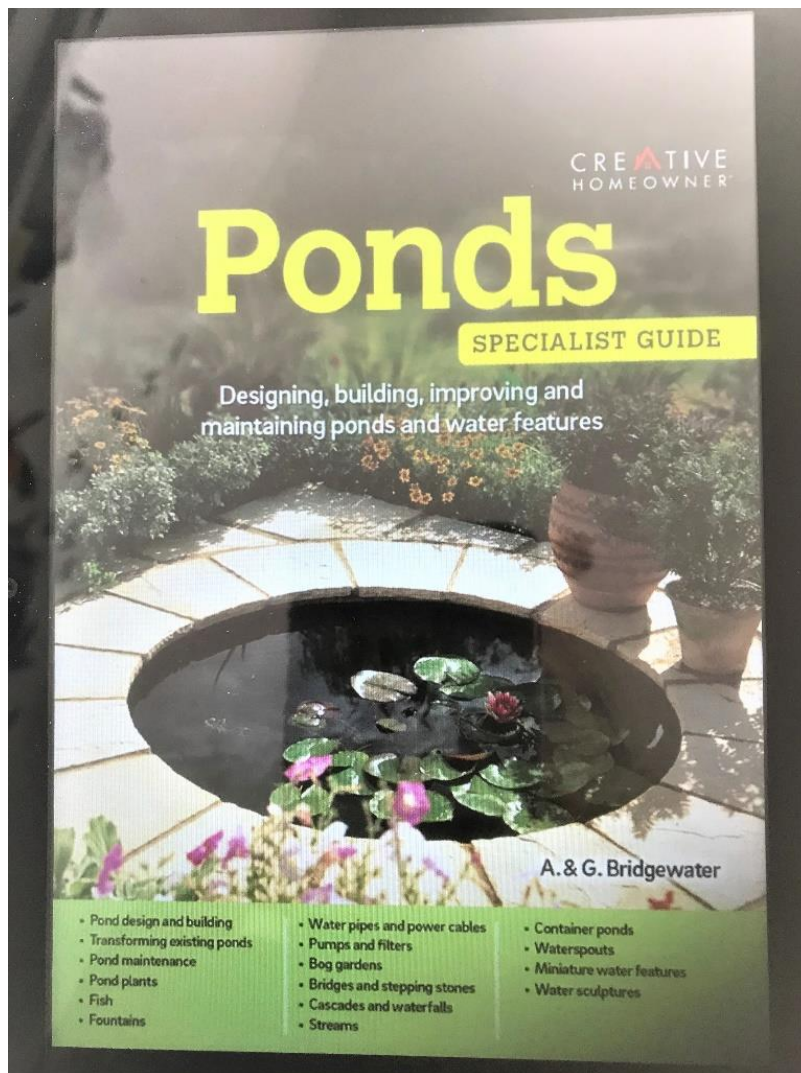
The website is: <https://youtu.be/B16WP-FOWvo> But you cannot just click this to link, you need to copy and paste it into the search box of your YouTube account (start one if not – it is free – click/tap into the account then paste link into search box). The project took weeks but the film is speeded-up to 15 minutes. What one man and a trowel can create is amazing.

There are many more ponds constructed on this Website. (Usual YouTube Ads – just click/tap them away).

## **Pond News**

If you do not yet have a pond, start by reading 'Ponds – Specialist Guide' by the DIY experts A & G Bridgewater.

Published in 2016 it is written for the UK market and available as a Kindle version for only £3.49. It is very pictorial (and so ideal for Kindle) and covers everything you need to know before making an informed choice. 80 pages with useful index.



## Dyed Ponds

To prevent algae-laden green water in your pond, you can dye it black (or blue, even green – but why?). This prevents algae growing since it blocks the light from penetrating. The makers of the dyestuff claim it is completely safe to animals and insects – even fish. But why include fish if you can't see them?

The chemicals involved are food-quality dyes (and involve complicated patented processes such as interaction of Bromamine acid with 2,4,6 trimethylaniline). The black dye is the most popular giving a reflective surface like a mirror, but blue is also used where the water seems to reflect the sky (when it's blue).

There are 5 million garden ponds in the UK (owners should all join NGPS) and many are just water features rather than Goldfish or Koi ponds.

A water feature pond dyed black.



The dyestuff slowly fades and has to be re-dosed regularly, which the dye makers like.

Dyeing blue is also popular and effective in preventing algae forming.



Amazon has dozens of pond dyes, with special offers, of course. Or you can look at the manufacturers, such as <https://www.hydra-int.com> or <https://www.dyofix.co.uk>.

If you do have a pond with Goldfish or Koi, there are treatments to prevent algal growth that use the dye method. These are dilute versions of the above concentrated ones for water features. This is far better for your fish than using an algicide!

An example is NTLABS Blanketweed and Algae Control. The blue dye is dark enough to prevent algal growth by reducing photosynthesis, but dilute enough to allow you to still see the fish.



## **Top Tip for Dyed Ponds**

Wear disposable gloves when handling pond dyes and handle with great care. The dyes stain like spilt Indian Ink. Keep pets away from the pond when treating it too; you could have a blue, or black, dog if it decides to investigate what you are doing. Store in a shed rather than

indoors – any spillage could permanently change your furniture or floor colour.

## **Pond Articles**

Since this is a Pond issue Newsletter, two past articles on pond building and maintenance should be included – they are old, but still relevant.

For building a pond on a sloping garden see:

<https://drdmford.com/4SlopingPond.pdf>

To repair a pond that has a leaking problem around the surface area, see:

<https://drdmford.com/5LeakingPond.pdf>

(Tap or 'control & click' the Links)

There is only one on-line company devoted to pond-keeping – it has lots of information too and mail-order items:

<https://www.pondkeeper.co.uk>



The Pond I would like to own – it is from 'World's Most Beautiful Backyard Ponds' on YouTube. American, of course, but lots of videos of Aquascaped Ponds to view.



**Koi News** (because it's a pond issue)  
These are Kohaku for sale at Lestari Koi Farm in Vietnam. They were on Facebook and the posts say that they are

collectively worth at least \$10,000.  
(Taken from the original video, which is no longer available, so perhaps they have all been sold!)



## **Chairman's Notes**

Members will recall that last month I confirmed that our Open Show for this year would be cancelled and that we need to plan for how we can best hold our shows and meetings in the future. The

cancellation is due to the Covid 19 situation but the planning for future events is necessary to reflect the changing nature and capabilities of our membership. Here are some thoughts for Members consideration, They are not exhaustive or conclusive I would welcome any other ideas any comments or other proposals are welcome. Phone me on 0161 969 7567 or email at moores\_s@sky.com

### The Monthly Meetings

Up until these were suspended in line with the Covid restrictions, we were holding our monthly meetings at 8.00pm on the second Tuesday of every month at the Church Inn in Prestwich. Though these meetings were attended by a core of members and provided both a debating and decision making forum and some

social contact and enjoyment the numbers attending have been dwindling over the last few years and the evening setting made it very difficult for members living any distance away to attend.

We have been thinking for quite some time how to improve access for members and two or three years ago did hold one meeting on a Sunday in Stretford, this was well attended and interesting and probably does reflect the direction we should be thinking of for future meetings, Unfortunately the Stretford hall is now closed every Sunday. On Saturday, which many members would find less convenient, it may prove difficult to find a vacant slot. Other venues or the Church Inn, could be considered and would likely be much easier to find than the major problems we encountered when we were

considering the much more demanding site for a possible switch of show venue.

## The Annual Open Show

For the past several years up until they were suspended in line with the virus restrictions last year our Open Shows have been held in St Matthews Church Hall, Stretford, Manchester on an early September Saturday each year. There is a lot of work goes into each show, often not seen or realized by exhibitors, but the chief concern at the moment is the actual setting up of the tanks and filling them with water on the Friday and emptying them and packing them away on the evening of the Saturday, both are hard, prolonged physical tasks requiring a good number of fit and active people to achieve. The present concern is that we may not now have sufficient members in

this category to cope with this particular task.

One possible answer may be to bypass the setting up of the tanks and water and require all exhibitors to bring their own. Tables could be set out and every other aspect of the show could stay as close to how we have previously managed things as we want. Though this concept may seem strange to members who have only ever attended our and the other Goldfish society's shows, it has worked well for the vast majority of tropical shows where it is, in fact, the norm. Everything really works almost the same as our traditional method; exhibitors arrive with their fish in buckets, just the same, they are directed to the table where their class is, just the same, then they place their tanks on the bench fill them from their buckets or an

extra jerry can and put their fish in. This form of benching does involve the individual exhibitor with a little more work and a little more to transport but eliminates the major problem of filling/taking down all the tanks by a small group of members. It also, incidentally, much reduces problems of misidentifying tanks, fish reacting badly to strange water or being mixed by accident with other exhibits water.

Obviously at the end of the show each exhibitor takes his fish and his tanks, discards any excess water and can be on his way home probably much more swiftly than previously.

Quite incidentally one other, welcome, change we will encounter at the Stretford hall is that the nursery that has always been in 'the other half' of 'our half' of the

hall is no longer operating, so we can use the entire space - we can still divide it using the folding wall, if we want - and we will have full access from much earlier in the day on Friday - if we still need to attend on Friday..

Please note that the separate photographic contest we held last year for photos of your fish did not prove popular and will not be held again this year.

## Members

Alan Ratcliffe is scaling his fish keeping activities right back and will have a number of essential fish house items to kindly distribute to members who may find them useful. Call him on 0128 2420097.

Members have reported a sporadic breeding season this year, probably



largely due to the very cold spring, my fish from last year have grown well but there have been no spawnings. If there are any spawnings now I am unlikely to keep them as I really don't want to take fry through the winter like I did last year.

Back in September.

## **BAS**

Last but not least, if you have Zoom tonight's Bristol Meeting at 7.45 for 8pm will be at:

Meeting ID: 876 0396 5203

Passcode: 185843

(For complicated reasons, I can't make it this time, sad that).

