



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



SEPTEMBER 2021



Sorry – there is no 2021 Open Show to report, so for nostalgic reason, here was our 60th Anniversary Show back in 2019.

Mike Kirkham, a well-known aquarist in the Tropical World, decided to visit us with his magnificent Ryukin. It had won many prizes during 2019 in Coldwater Sections of clubs around UK.



Of course it won a First!

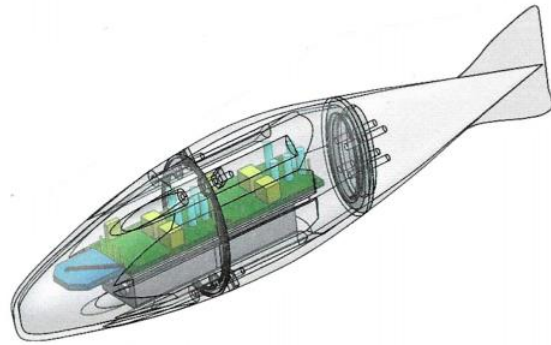
Best in Show was Andy Barton's London Shubunkin....



Robotic Goldfish

There are many robotic fish used for testing aquatic environments, or for spying. The latter use has a problem – the mechanical motor that drives them makes them visible. The Georgia Institute of Technology (reported in *Biomin Technologies*, page 11, 2021) have solved that problem. They used Piezoelectric materials. These are solids that develop an electric charge when

flexed. Hence a tailfin on a robotic fish can send the electrical charge to a (silent) motor that propels the fish forward.



This is their Robofish, based on a Trout shape.

Apparently the fish contains a chip that can accept Bluetooth messages from an app on a smart phone. The technology is still developing, but eventually (perhaps a far future) there could be Robotic Goldfish that responds to your smart phone. It will swim in the aquarium according to your whim, with no pollution, no feeding,

no water changes, no infections. But no breeding!

Goldfish News USA

A Minnesota newspaper is still imploring Americans not to flush their unwanted pet Goldfish down the toilet. Somehow (not revealed how) they discovered this Goldfish suffered that fate, survived and then grew to a monster size in a Minnesota lake.



Wonder if they returned it to the lake?

Nationwide News

The Standard for the Butterfly Goldfish is closer, despite Covid!

The Nationwide Committee are now in email contact to finalise the Standards.

This will be the 21st Standard!



Beautiful Telescope Butterflies

Pond News

The Ghost Ponds of Norfolk – due to its geology Norfolk is home to about 23,000 natural ponds. But a century ago there were about 8,000 more. These ponds have disappeared through neglect or even global warming. Called 'Ghost Ponds' there is now a project to revitalise them (Prince Charles is involved too, at Sandringham). Buried in the original mud will be seeds of aquatic plants no longer seen in Norfolk. The rejuvenated ponds will also become home to Amphibians and insects (return of the Dragonflies!).



Top Tip

If you visit Halifax for any reason it is well worth also visiting their Piece Hall.



Details:

<https://www.thepiecehall.co.uk/#1>.

There are 40 shops, as well as lots of restaurants and cafes.

The only Goldfish connection though is in the Yorkshire Soap Company shop – you can get a Goldfish soap!



Chairman's Notes

Further to David's fascinating articles about his weather loach, in the May, June and July Newsletters: if you do keep a weather loach please ensure that the tank has a securely fitting lid as these fish are expert escapers and the majority end their fishy lives dried up on the carpet. This is probably a reflection of their habit,

in the wild, of leaving their pond and crawling to a new one. Several species of fish do this, probably the most remarkable being the Clarius or walking catfish of south east Asia, which through aquarium escapes has become established in the wild in the southern U.S. where it is often encountered as 'road kill'.

There are several other commonly seen 'tropical fish' that are quite comfortable at room temperature and are safe to keep with goldfish: zebra danios, white cloud mountain minnows , bronze and peppered Corydoras catfish, rosy barbs (Alex Stephenson actually used to breed these in outdoor ponds) being amongst them. Probably my favourite is the beautiful white cloud, these fish are one of the few fish that will spawn with no special preparation and do not hunt down and eat

their own fry. If kept with goldfish it is common for their number to gradually increase.

Several members reported difficulty in spawning this last spring. I am sure this was due to the extremely cold night-time temperatures we were having (the weather reports stated that this was the coldest April for 100 years, though, of course, we will be told at the end of the year that 2021 was one of the hottest years ever). I had one 200 watt heater in one of the six foot tanks in the fish house but some mornings the temperature in this tank had fallen to below 50 degrees F, 10 degrees C.

Though I had intended to spawn early this year, the combination of very cold weather and the number of fry from the very late spawnings last year, that I brought through the winter, filling the fish house,

caused me to adjust my plans. I did separate a pair of Veiltails for when it warmed up a bit but, as sometimes happens, they have been happily munching through their extra conditioning rations and putting it into growth rather than future babies. So its plan 'E', or is it 'F', and aiming for them to spawn in the spring of 2022 (2022!!!!)

Things in general are getting back to normal a bit now, I had my second jab in April and had a very welcome and needed week in Anglesey, I was supposed to be going away again to Blaenau two weeks ago but this was abandoned because of the traditional British delight of constant rain.

Dave's Aquarium in Bolton is presently closed so check with them if you are planning to visit.

In the August issue of 'Practical Fishkeeping' the 'Aquarian' advert on the back page features two Fantails being fed and they don't look to be bad Fantails at all - can't see all of their body clearly but they have a good tail and body with good colour.

Here is the advert for those who do not receive the magazine.



Care for your Fish

By combining wholesome ingredients with the perfect mix of nutrients, AQUARIAN brand is able to ensure complete nutrition for your fish. It's how we help you care for your fish keeping them active, healthy, and happy.

AQUARIAN
www.aquarian.co.uk

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AQUARIAN
Complete Nutrition
Goldfish Pellets

- ✓ Active, bright and healthy
- ✓ Sinking & floating pellets mix
- ✓ Balances support optimal growth

Come explore more with the AQUARIAN brand. Hover your mobile device's camera here.

The advertisement features a hand dropping colorful fish food pellets into a tank where two goldfish are swimming. At the bottom, there are images of Aquarian product packaging: a tub of 'Goldfish & Coldwater Flake Food' and a bag of 'Goldfish Pellets'. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.

The left hand fish is a male displaying clear tubercles on the leading edge of its pectoral fin. They are likely to have been photographed in America, I don't know how good a standard of Fantails is available in America but good metallic Fantails are rare in Britain. To compare the standard of Goldfish available in the USA to those in this country is not straightforward, though in general 'serious' fish are of a higher standard in Britain, commercially available fish (imports from eastern breeders) may be of a generally higher grade than in Britain as customers are more willing to pay the higher prices asked.

Back in October (October!!!!)

