



Ilford & District Aquarist & Pondkeepers Society

November Meeting – Monday 13th

ILFORD



Last month our former chairman, Mike Shadrack, returned to the fold to administer the proceedings of the evening raising £180.00 for club funds. Thanks to all who helped.

Mike was made an Honorary Vice President of the Society when he formally stepped down from the role of Chairman at our last AGM. Last month we marked that honour with a more tangible token, in the form of an etching, to celebrate his long and much appreciated service to the society.

AQUARIST

This month - Paul Mills on Plants.

Paul visited us earlier this year to talk about pond plants but somehow changed track and delivered a very interesting talk on pond aids available in the retail trade (he works for Wildwoods). This time he promises to deliver on plants.

Social events

Last month saw the **Old Time Music Hall evening** eventually take place. After the event was cancelled in February Ray Downer and Roger Saltrick put in a lot of work (thank you both) to arrange a new date. Those that did not attend missed a good night but will be pleased to hear that we were able to give the **Lifeline Appeal** a donation of £550.00



SOCIETY
2006

The Annual Dinner has now been arranged for the **13th of January 2007** and will be held in Stoneleigh Court (off Herent Drive, Ilford). Full details are on the enclosed booking form that should be returned to Ray Downer no later than 11th December 2006

The Pond in November – by Mike brill



Usually in November the weather is too cold for any growth in the pond. 1995 was an exception - so warm that plants and animals were still active. This was certainly the warmest November in my lifetime. However you must be very careful to quickly remove all decaying vegetable matter. It can cause a lot of harm if not removed. Fallen leaves blow into the pond and most will float for 24 hours, so remove floating leaves with a net every day. Water-lily leaves and other aquatic plants that are decaying must be removed. Duckweed and an aquatic fern, Azolla, must be cleared from the surface of the pond. Azolla goes bright red in winter. These floating plants cut out the light and air from the depths of the pond and the oxygenating plants and fish can die as a result.

Fish do not need feeding in a normal November. If fed it should only be with small quantities of live food such as Daphnia or with soaked stale white bread. If you have exotic plants in your pool such as Water Hyacinth, Water Lettuce or Water Chestnut these must be removed before any frosts, to a warm light position indoors to survive the winter.



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Europe 2007/08

Don, Roger and Brian Lowe had a small meeting to discuss club holidays for 2007/8, and still think a Rhine cruise would be a relaxing holiday also fairly straightforward to organise.

The one they looked at would be a 10 day holiday:

Being picked up at Chigwell by coach travelling to Cologne (Germany)

There's no better way to see the Rhine than from the river itself, the way that countless travellers have seen it over the centuries. Enjoy the scenery from the comfort of our superb cruise ship, the Princess Christina.

Our itinerary features visits to the popular wine towns of Boppard, Rudesheim and Cochem as well as the Rhineland capital of Cologne. After your cruise, you visit the beautiful medieval Belgium town of Bruges, with an optional visit to delightful Ypres.

- Return travel by air-conditioned executive coach
- Channel crossings by ferry
- Seven nights' full board accommodation on the Princess Christina in a main deck cabin
- Two nights' hotel accommodation including breakfast
- Services of a Travelsphere Tour Manager
- Visits to Koblenz, Cochem, Boppard, Rudesheim, Andernach, Cologne, Bruges and Ostend

The price would be in the region of £600.00 to £650.00 per person, which is a fair bit more than we usually arrange but do remember that it is a 10 day holiday and includes all meals on board – compared with our usual 5 nights bed and breakfast, so really is good value.

All prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin or double-bedded cabin/room with private facilities.

But we would need to know interested people by the December meeting.

See you on Monday

Rab