



Ilford & District Aquarist & Pondkeepers Society

**Next
Meeting
12th May**

Last MONTH: Mark Evenden of Devotedly Discus

Mark had been to Ilford before – in February 2002. He certainly knows his Discus but it was disappointing that he had no slides to show us the fruits of his labour. Still, a few of us are planning a little trip down to Polegate and armed with a camera or two will bring you back some slides and we'll make sure that Mark gets copies.

This month – Gary Steptoe on African Cichlids

Gary, being a local lad, is a frequent visitor and always welcome. The older members will remember that Gary used to officiate as a Judge when we held our shows in the town hall but then we stopped doing shows and Gary took up bird keeping (the feathered sort). But he's back on the fish breeding track and ready to tell you about his African Cichlids.

I got a few things wrong in last months letter (I did say it was time for someone else to have a go). My only excuse is that I was rushing to get the newsletter done early as I was going on a short holiday. The early newsletter caused a few problems as well – some of you also had “senior moments” and almost arrived at the library a week early!



It is PLYMOUTH that are having their 60th Anniversary Dinner on June 28th [See Roger for details]

The visit to Wholesale Tropicals was on Tuesday the 29th April. As always we were made very welcome by the Jones team. (Terry on left).

Other Events

JBL, a german company that produces foods and equipment for the hobby currently are exhibiting their goods at Wickford Aquatics and have offered to have one of their reps talk to a private group one evening. We will arrange it as a joint exercise with Southend and Strood if there is enough interest.



Longstock Gardens (owned by the John Lewis Partnership) are now open to the public on a more regular basis (used to open just a few days a year). You can go yourself any 1st or 3rd Sunday of the month from April to September from 2pm to 5pm but a car convoy one Sunday might be more fun. Entry cost is £5.00.

Capel Manor College Bullsmoor Lane Enfield

This came to our attention in a booking form for a Craft fair (which we are not attending) but right on our doorstep this centre has “30 acres of richly planted themed gardens including Historical Gardens, Italianate Maze, Japanese Garden, and many others”. On the Bank holiday weekend, Saturday 24th of May to Monday the 26th they are holding the North London Cactus and Succulents Show





I also forgot to mention last month that Annual Subscriptions were due... Many of you did remember but there are quite a few outstanding

Single £16.00 Family £22.00

Pond and Home Aquarium Competitions - 2008

The Pond competition is scheduled for the 1st of June and Cliff Tayler is waiting for your entry at this meeting. I have to say though that I think this is too early, particularly this year when all our ponds are suffering from a late frost and spring. The marginals are only just getting going and I reckon lilies will be barely in flower on June 1st. I recall that it used to be held in July.



Fry Rearing

Ken Wrightson is kindly donating some of his Rosy Barb fry for you to raise.

Usual rules – 50p per bag on a first come basis and bring the best two back in a few months

AGM Nomination Forms

June's meeting is our AGM and I enclose the nomination forms for you to complete and return at the May meeting (or to a committee member no later than the 2nd of June).

Our rules call for a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 15 on our committee. Currently there are 12 serving members but we are conscious that most of us are long standing incumbents – some nearly as old as the club and some even older - and there is concern (in committee) that unless we can get new (and younger) blood into the committee taking active roles, the club could be in serious difficulties in the not too distant future.

You already know that I am looking to stand down as newsletter editor but may not know that Barry Brown is also looking to stand down as shop manager. We have a suggestion or two for replacements but it is YOUR club so let's hear from YOU.



On a lighter note to end you might be interested to know that you got your newsletter early last month because I was in sunny Barcelona where I visited a pretty good aquarium – and brought back a video that will serve as a stand in for the next speaker that fails to appear. From a fishkeeper's viewpoint I have seen better aquariums but this one excelled on the education front.

See you all on Monday

Rab

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