



The **Plymouth Fishkeepers Society** was founded in 1948 by a local school teacher placing an advert in the Evening Herald for anyone interested in the aquatic hobby to attend an inaugural meeting to form a Society. From these small beginnings the present Society has grown. The last 69 years have seen many changes in the hobby, and the Society itself has experienced its ups and down in terms of membership.

Finding a suitable meeting place at a reasonable cost can be a problem for any Society. In Plymouth, we are fortunate to have a fine meeting place. At present meetings are held on the first and second Wednesdays of each month at the Hyde Park Social Club. The first meeting is the more formal, consisting of visual lectures given by either our own Society members or by guest speakers. The second meeting is centred around the table show where members hope to win trophies which are presented at the end of the year. A short talk on an aquatic subject is presented by a member while the fish are being judged; this allows time for members to be able to mingle and chat about the hobby. At the end of the evening there is a questions and answers slot for members who may have a fishkeeping problem. At each meeting there is a raffle and auction of fish bred by Society members and other aquatic items. The Society is affiliated to the Federation of British Aquatic Societies, who supplies all the standards for showing and judging the fish and plants.

#### WIDE RANGING

Interests among members are diverse, and there is without doubt someone in the Society who can answer questions covering most aspects of the hobby. There are members that belong to specialist Societies such as the Catfish Association of Great Britain and the British Killifish Association. In addition, members are interested in coldwater fish; a home aquarium and garden pond competition is held each year. Aquatic plants are not forgotten, and one of the trophies in our home aquarium competition is for the best plant. Within the Society there is an active interest in aquatic photography and members can show their photos in an annual competition.

## BREEDING

It goes without saying that in such an active Society there is also keen interest in breeding fish and fresh water shrimps. Again some people specialise in one group, whereas others have a more general interest. A Society magazine is produced four times a year under the title "Fishy News" and contains a diverse array of articles on aspects of fish and fishkeeping written by members. A monthly newsletter is also produced to cover forthcoming events and table show results.

There is a good cross section of members ranging from fairly newcomers to people who have been in the hobby for a long time. No matter why you keep fish, we aim to be able to provide something of interest to you. Why not attend one of our meetings and find out more about us.

Just bought your first fish tank? Then Plymouth Fishkeepers Society is the place to be.

We are also on Facebook.