

# The VOICE

[ april 2001 issue 13 ]

## POND TRAGEDY

The screenshot shows a newspaper article from the Isle of Man. The masthead reads 'Isle of Man on-line' with 'Brought to you by Isle of Man Newspapers Ltd' above it. Below the masthead is the name 'ELLAN VANNIN ER Y LINNEY'. The article is dated 'Friday March 30' and is titled 'Latest News' with a sub-headline 'NAIGHT S'JERREE'. The main headline is 'MUM CAMPAIGNS FOR POND SAFETY AFTER SON'S DEATH'. The text of the article begins: 'A HEARTBROKEN mum is campaigning to make garden ponds safer after her baby boy tragically drowned. Just over two weeks ago the bottom fell out of Jill Allen's world. Jacob, her little boy of 19 months, died by drowning in a disused garden pond. Plunged into a nightmare that every parent dreads, she has been struggling to see how any good could possibly come out of such a tragedy. Instead of hiding away to nurse her grief, she has'.

children.

Members will recall that the topic of drownings in garden ponds was the subject of a campaign in the "Daily Mirror" and a Department of Trade leaflet during last year.

OATA recommends that members take some steps to alert the public to the dangers of open water of any kind including ponds. Our signs may achieve this and can be purchased from the office or reserved online for £4 + VAT.

Newspapers in the Isle of Man reported the death of a 19 month old child two weeks ago. The mother of the child has not unreasonably reminded all parents of the dangers that ponds may present for young

*continued on page 2...*

[ 1 ] ..... Pond tragedy

[ 2 ] ..... OATA 10th Anniversary

[ 3 ] ..... Big fish ● Want up-to-the-minute information? ● Stakeholder pensions ● Foot and Mouth

[ 4 ] ..... Website accolade ● Corals

OATA, Unit 5, Narrow Wine St., Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 8YY UK

Telephone +44 (0)1225 777177 Fax +44 (0)1225 775523

info@oata.demon.co.uk www.ornamentalfish.org www.aquaticsworldwide.org

## OATA 10TH ANNIVERSARY

It is just over 10 years since 150 members of the industry met in a conference room at a hotel in the Midlands and what became OATA was formed. The first levy was collected in May of that year, and our first employee started full time in September.

Thanks to the support of our hundreds of members, OATA has succeeded in becoming an influential force in decisions affecting its future. Certainly together we have proved the cynics wrong who said it would not last six months very comprehensively incorrect.

In those ten years OATA has saved the industry as much as £200 million. That is a hard act to follow, but we look forward to trying to improve on that in the next ten years. ■



### MAKE YOUR POND SAFE!

Young children should always be supervised when near open water of any kind.

### Pond safety

The DTI Safety Unit commissioned a study to investigate domestic drowning accidents including those in garden water features such as fish ponds and swimming pools. Members are reminded of our warning signs and notes previously circulated. The "Make your pond safe!" correx signs (20cm x 30cm) in red and black are available for £4 + VAT each.

### Pond Safety Points

- Hands should be washed after immersion in ponds, and before eating, drinking or smoking.

### General

- Young Children must ALWAYS be supervised when they are close to any open water - be it garden pond, swimming pool, river, stream or lake.
- Children under three years of age are at particular risk because they are still unsteady on their feet.
- Customers and prospective buyers should be encouraged to seek advice from an OATA approved dealer before making any decision regarding the installation of a pond so that expert advice can be given from the start.
- Shallow shelving or marshy edges can be incorporated into the design so that there is no easy access to deep water.
- Shrubs and plants can be used to make access to the pond difficult for youngsters.
- Grills can be manufactured to provide either temporary or permanent cover.

### Electricity

- Equipment should be installed by a competent electrician. The more complex the installation, the greater competence required.
- Where necessary waterproof unions, of the appropriate type should be used. OATA retailers may provide advice as requested.
- Cables and equipment should be checked regularly. Repairs or replacements should be carried out as soon as a fault is detected.
- Circuit breakers can provide life saving protection.
- All electrical items should be switched off if any maintenance or repair is undertaken.

### Chemicals

- Pond treatments all carry labels giving detailed instruction on its' safe use and handling. When using pond treatments, the label should be carefully read and understood before proceeding. This will ensure that both you and your fish are safe.
- All chemicals should be kept out of the reach of young children at all times. ■

## BIG FISH

Stories concerning pets that outgrow their welcome are usually associated with tiny furballs that grow into great danes. However occasionally the spotlight is put on fish. That time has come around!



Zoo curators have prepared a document pointing out that they are being swamped with large ornamental fish such as redtail cats, which have outgrown their owners ability to look after them. Apparently the zoos are now full and they are highlighting their fears about the number of potentially "big fish" coming into the country.

OATA has "Big fish" water-resistant stickers that can have the appropriate size written on ordered from the office. At £10 per 50. By helping inform members of the public what they are buying, the industry may well escape serious adverse publicity in the future.

on." ■

## WANT UP-TO-THE-MINUTE INFORMATION?

THEN LET US HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

Love it or hate it, communication techniques are moving on. OATA is keeping up with the move to email becoming a main form of transmitting information. Let us know your address. The benefits to you, include regular updates on breaking issues (for example the Convention on Biodiversity and CITES), delivery to your desk, multiple copies to the computer of any named member of staff (who of course must be linked to the internet), and your home email address if you wish. The advantages to OATA are less time printing newsletters and packing and posting envelopes. Of course any savings made are ploughed back to enable OATA to achieve even more.

So if you have never received an email from us, and have an address, please let us know! ■

## STAKEHOLDER PENSIONS

A brief reminder that these come into being from 1<sup>st</sup> April. Employers of more than 5 employee's have obligations to allow access to a stakeholder pension scheme. OATA has arranged a ready made package. More details are available from Jeremy Miles, Independent Financial Services, Tel: 01985 219732 or email [jmiles@ifs-online.co.uk](mailto:jmiles@ifs-online.co.uk). ■

## FOOT AND MOUTH

The current foot and mouth outbreak might be causing difficulties for members, as the public seem reluctant to travel at the moment. Immediate impacts aside, there are the potential wider problems in the medium and long term. The fish health directive, which regulates the conditions under which we import fish, is being reviewed at the moment. We must ensure there is no knee-jerk reaction to the difficulties caused by the current FMD outbreak. ■

## WEBSITE ACCOLADE

The Ornamental Aquatic Trade Associations website ([www.ornamentalfish.org](http://www.ornamentalfish.org)) received a five star rating, the highest available, in a recent review of pet related sites by "The Sunday Times Doors - Your guide to the internet" (25th February 2001).

The "Ornamental Fish" website has thousands of visitors each month. In the last ten months visitors from at least 88 countries have been recorded. It has clearly been recognised worldwide not only for its design, but as a source of information. ■



## CORALS

It appears that the EU SRG has suspended trade in another species of coral. Full details are not available as we go to press, but it is understood that the suspension relates to a *Montipora* species from the Solomons, but this remains to be confirmed.

Members are reminded that a number of corals from Indonesia are suspended from trade. We very strongly recommend that all dealing in corals ensure that they check they were imported into the EU legally. Saying that corals were purchased from elsewhere in the EU, and thus they were in the single market and so different, or no rules apply, is not

a defence. If corals enter the EU illegally, trade in them, even several steps down the supply chain, remains illegal. It is better to check, for instance, by asking for a sight of an import permit, than to face seizure of your stock.

Details of corals subject to suspension have been published in earlier Newsletters. If any one cannot find this information please contact the office. ■