

**How to contact us at the editorial office:**01959 541 444 [birds.ed@kelsey.co.uk](mailto:birds.ed@kelsey.co.uk)Write to: *Cage & Aviary Birds*, Kelsey Media, Regent House, Welbeck Way, Peterborough PE2 7WH**How to take out an advertisement:**01732 445 325 [russell.bedford@talkmediasales.co.uk](mailto:russell.bedford@talkmediasales.co.uk)Write to: *Cage & Aviary Birds*, TalkMedia, Ground & First Floor Littleheath, St. Marys Road, Swanley, Kent BR8 7FN**In Brief****ON THIS WEEK'S COVER**

Swallows © Shutterstock.com/ CezaryKorkosz. See story on page 16 >>

**VIC COLE: FUNERAL**

THE CCBA is saddened to report the passing of Vic Cole, a CCBA stalwart for many years. Please note the funeral details: July 22, 1.45pm at The Woodland Chapel, Westerleigh Crematorium, Westerleigh Road, Bristol BS37 8RF. See obituary in next week's issue.

**HEADLESS DUCKS**

TWO decapitated mallard ducks have been discovered by a dog walker at Sidney Park in Lincolnshire. While it is common for ducks to be predated by foxes, the birds' wounds were clean cut and the RSPCA is not ruling out that it could have been a deliberate human act. If anyone has information about the incident, please call 0300 1234 999.

**BREEDING BITTERNS**

AFTER an absence of breeding for almost a decade, a pair of bitterns have produced three chicks at RSPB Leighton Moss in Silverdale, Lancs. This is a result of a four-year programme to rejuvenate the wetlands at Leighton Moss, including managing reedbeds, which are crucial habitat for this species.

**FIGHTING BACK**

A NEW vaccine could help to prevent the extinction of the Critically Endangered orange-bellied parrot (*Neophema chrysogaster*). The vaccine, which is awaiting official approval, is designed to fight Psittacine Circoviral Disease (PCD) – one of the main factors causing this species' demise. Found in the south-west corner of Tasmania, the wild population is only a few tens of birds, with about 400 kept in captivity.

**TROPICAN RESULTS**

THE three winners of our June Tropicana prize draw to each win a 2kg bag of Hand-Feeding Formula, are as follows: Andrew Benton, Walsall; Sean Borrowdale, Penrith; and Willie Stephen, Ellon.

# New national show set to honour one of the Gloster canary greats

**CANARIES**

**ONE OF THE** founding fathers of the Gloster canary is to be spectacularly commemorated at a major new show later this year.

On December 1, the first National Gloster Fancy Canary Show (NGFCS) will be held in Chesterfield, Derbyshire. And *Cage & Aviary Birds* can exclusively reveal that the debut event will be dedicated to the memory of the late John Thornton: one of the legendary band of West Country breeders who created the Gloster canary almost a century ago.

Steve Pritchard, NGFCS publicity manager, explained: "It started earlier this year when some dedicated Gloster breeders met for a pre-breeding season lunch. And it was Trevor Goddard who first suggested: 'What the Gloster fancy needs is an annual National All Gloster Show.'"

Many years have passed

since there was a national show and the discussion quickly became serious, added Mr Pritchard.

"We didn't want to create a new club, just put on a show," he explained. "There's no committee, just 10 motivated breeders working to make the day a success."

"This is simply an annual national event open to every

secretary of the GFCC-UK. "Mario has already produced the show logo and poster, and is working on the brochure and schedule," said Mr Pritchard.

The 10 enthusiasts behind the new event are: Brian Skeffington, John Herring, Trevor Goddard, Dave Rands, Jeff Crunkhorn, Steve Cook, Fred Osborne, Nick Barrett, Dave Thomas and Mr Pritchard.

Dave Rands is organising a commemorative mug for every exhibitor to take home at the first event. "Show manager and show secretary will be Trevor Goddard and Steve Cook respectively," said Mr Pritchard. "John Herring will be in charge of the money and I'm the go-to man for admin and general enquiries."

● *The NGFCS will take place on December 1. Venue: the Speedwell Rooms, Inkersall Road, Staveley S43 3JL. All enquiries to: Steve Pritchard, tel: 07947 688 817 or email: [stevepritchard@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stevepritchard@yahoo.co.uk)*

**It's open to every Gloster breeder, in the UK or anywhere in the world**  
– Steve Pritchard, NGFCS publicity manager

Gloster breeder, whether in the UK or anywhere in the world."

Plans for the day developed swiftly and the organisers have already reached an agreement with two eminent judges for the launch event. One is IGBA chairman Keith Baker and the other is Mario Zahra of Malta, international

**THE NATIONAL GLOSTER FANCY CANARY SHOW**

**CHESTERFIELD**  
The Speedwell Rooms - Inkersall Road - Staveley S43 3JL  
**1st December 2019** Derbyshire

For the diary: the show poster designed by one of the judges, Mario Zahra



L-r: Dave Rands will donate prize mugs; Nick Barrett is among the show founders; Steve Pritchard is tasked with publicity

**New show, new trophy**

UP FOR annual competition at the national Gloster show will be a unique prize. A historic solid silver cup is to be specially re-engraved as The John Thornton Memorial Trophy – and presented by one of Mr Thornton's two surviving daughters.

Mr Pritchard said: "These ladies wish to commemorate the name of their father, a truly remarkable genius. This will be the award every serious exhibitor will want to get their hands on."



## For £2 you could win a bird from a BS Club Show-winning stud

**BUDGERIGARS**

A MIDLANDS BUDGERIGAR club will hold its first-ever online raffle this year and has secured three young birds from top fanciers, including a cock from a former BS Club Show-winning partnership.

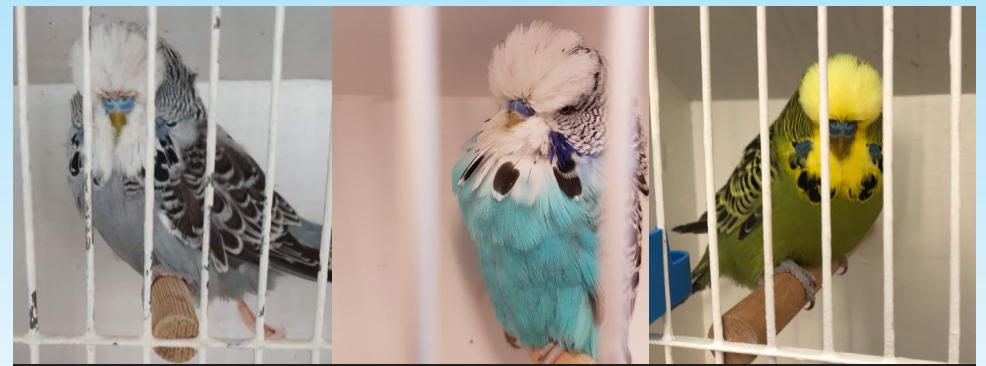
Following on from the success of its 2018 open show, Birmingham Budgerigar Society (BS) will announce the three main raffle winners at its Silver Championship open show on August 10 in Solihull.

Birmingham BS's 2018 open show saw an almost 50 per cent increase of benched

birds on 2017 (548). In the hope of continuing to build on the show's success, all birds entered in the open show will be free of charge, while the raffle has been made bigger and better with more birds and prizes, as well as going digital.

Three 2019-ringed young birds have been donated: a skyblue cock from champion breeder Bruce Greenway; a grey green from novice Chris Samson; and a grey cock from 2016 BS Club Show winners Alec & Dave Woan.

Morris Atkinson, Birmingham BS president, said: "This is the first time Bir-



Donated trio (l-r): grey cock, A. & D Woan; skyblue cock, Bruce Greenway; Chris Samson's grey green cock

mingham BS has attempted an online raffle and hopefully we can be fully integrated before our 2020 open show."

For more information on

the 2019 open show or to purchase raffle tickets (which cost £2 each), contact Morris Atkinson on 07515 701 411 or publicity officer James Johnson on

07832 100 774, or visit: [www.birminghambudgerigarsociety.co.uk](http://www.birminghambudgerigarsociety.co.uk)

Visitors to the open show can also purchase raffle tickets on the day.