

## RESCUE KATYDID

Even before lockdown I used to spend a fair amount of time working from home. Usually when tenders or strategic plans needed writing and I had to work at weekends and as a consequence I've always had a workstation at home.

To liven it up a bit I have an old fish tank in which I have, over the years kept a variety of insects from praying mantis to armoured crickets. I love praying mantis they look at you as if they know you are there!

Insects are great, they take very little looking after and you don't have to have a freezer full of dead mice and rats, so I get no resistance from the rest of the household 😊

Well when lockdown hit, I needed an insect. I decided on Katydid, which I've had before and are quite restful creatures although they do make a weird hissing sound at night sometimes.

When I set out to get a couple, the inevitable happened. The local lads we get them from just happened to have one that they couldn't sell because it had wings which looked like they'd been crumpled and squashed. The good news is when I clean them out this one can't fly so I don't have to play catch the katydid each time.



They, and I settled down in lockdown as work mates. Well we were doing something right because before too long a line of katydid eggs appeared on the bamboo in the tank. Two days later another line appeared and then blow me, a third!

We had a similar experience a few years ago with some spiny stick insects who laid dozens of eggs so we gave the eggs to a friend of ours. A week later we got a call from him saying that all the eggs had hatched and escaped and, the dog was going mad and their house was crawling with stick insects.

We wouldn't make that mistake again so contacted the lads and asked if they wanted the eggs to breed their own. To say they were pleased was an understatement – they took a layer of skin off my hand!

Of course, we were convinced that it couldn't have been the rescue katydid which had laid them. That was until yesterday when I watched the rescue laying more eggs on a new piece of bamboo.