

# FISHING FOR SCHOOLS

## May Update

**W**e have good news this month! Members of the Thameside Works Angling and Preservation Society (TWAPS) have kindly agreed to let us use some of their club waters for coaching. These waters are normally only open to members.

TWAPS is a forward-thinking club with many venues, including Shorne Country Park, which we often use on the F4S Programme. All the club's other waters are members-only.

The new arrangement means that we will be able to use Cobham Hall, which is a lovely water in the grounds of a former stately home, with small groups of students and hopefully as time goes on we will be invited to use some of the other club waters.

The pupils will get temporary membership, valid on the days of the coaching. The benefits for F4S students are that they get to fish a new water, there will be the opportunity for our junior students to join the club and Cobham Hall is very well placed for our schools in the Gravesend and Maidstone area.

F4S coordinator for Kent, Warren White, said: "I admire TWAPS for this stance because not many clubs would allow youngsters in to use their waters. Sadly, you don't always get a good response from the paying adult members."

"But over the years F4S instructor Charlie Rayner, who is also member of TWAPS, has sown the seed of allowing us access and I am pleased the members gave it the green light at their recent meeting."

This new partnership is an important step forward for F4S in the

area and something, we believe, fishing clubs across the country should be more open to.

We are continually told that youngsters are not coming into the sport and statistics from clubs and the Environment Agency back this up. We believe if young anglers get the opportunity to try their local club waters, fishing participation will go up and there will be more sustainability for the future.

Warren's F4S schedule for 2018 is planned out many months in advance, so it is probable that the only group to use Cobham Hall this academic year will be the Thursday BTEC group from Rowhill School. But the important thing, from an F4S perspective, is that we now have an agreement from a local fishing club for future use of their waters, which is great news!



## *Fishing 4 Schools ~ Tip of the month* from instructor Rob Goble

**W**ell the "Beast from the East" is almost a distant memory, but, what a beast it was. It's been many years since we have experienced such weather, so I am so glad that May is here and I'm feeling the warmth on my back. Life is great again and fishing of all types should be good.

Coarse fish will be eager to eat - especially carp, swirling and slurping at the surface and gobbling up chum mixers (dog biscuits). This would be my choice, using an imitation with a fly rod.

Sea anglers will have a chance to catch rays and hounds (dogfish) with baits off the beaches, as well as bass. If the weather is calm and clear fly fishing for the species can be magical, with sand eel and bait fish imitations.

Trout will also be very active with all manner of insects and invertebrates to eat as the water warms.

Talking of trout, here are a couple of tips to consider, once you have decided where you are going to fish:

- Fish close into the bank, fan cast left and right and out in front for a short while, also alter your retrieve to fish the different depths. You may be lucky and pull one out before going out with your cast.
- Trout will be on the hunt for a tasty morsel. I sometimes find trout by fishing along and down reed fringed banks.
- If after a short while there are no takers, try a little further out. We call this searching the water. Fan cast again, then try the countdown method, from one to 20 seconds. Start with a one second retrieve, removing your fly almost immediately, working up to fishing very deep, by leaving your line to fall through the water for 20 seconds. The retrieve can be slow, or fast or anything in-between, but, it will depend on the weight of your fly. If you're catching weed or the bottom try a shorter timed retrieve until

you are clear of obstructions. You will need to adapt to the conditions.

- I think I have mentioned before but be stealthy on the banks, especially on platforms, as vibrations from heavy feet will drive the fish out.
- Be careful with your back cast. Look out for other anglers or people passing behind you, but also be careful of vegetation, trees and shrubs, otherwise your hook will get embedded and you will possibly lose your fly. Please be observant.

I have included some pics for you to contemplate for the coming month.



*Be safe and have fun.*

*Bob G.*