

FREE

Chris Smith
48lb 10oz UK PB
North Lake
Elphicks

see page 6 for his
exclusive report



plus JUNIOR INFORMER pages 34-37, TROUT INFORMER pages 38-41, SEA INFORMER pages 42-49

Sandwich
Coarse Fishery

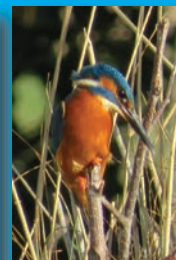
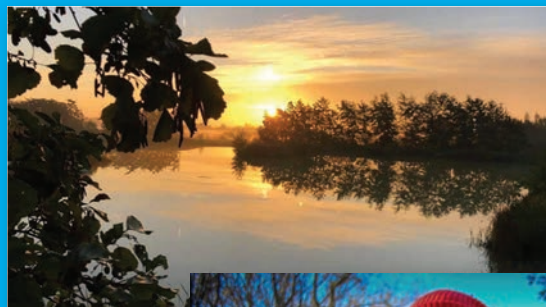


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Hello and welcome to the February 2022 issue of the Freshwater Informer!

We have nearly made it through another Winter! Although not quite out of the woods just yet, we are getting there and the magical season of Spring is drawing ever closer. No doubt by the time this issue hits the shelves the daffodils will be beginning to show and will be cheering up our rather dreary looking winter gardens.

January was a very busy month here at Informer HQ due to the first 2022 issue being distributed slightly later than normal due to the Festive Season. However, we will be getting back on track now and have a semblance of normality restored! Literally the day after the completion of the January magazines' distribution work began on preparing this edition. I generally have a few days to catch my breath between one issue and the next, but January didn't afford me that luxury!

Our weather to kick off the New Year has been more seasonal with some sharp frosts and chilly temperatures, but it also gave rise to some wonderful crisp sunny days. I have enjoyed seeing many wonderful photos from across the region of our beautiful countryside and coast looking absolutely resplendent in the clear bright air. I have shared many of these wonderful images on my 'morning bit' on the magazine's Facebook page. We are certainly privileged to live in such a diverse beautiful region that never fails to amaze!

The fishing has been quite hard going for freshwater and sea anglers. Our rivers have barely been fishable at times due to the height and colour in the water and although pike have been caught many respected local pike anglers have told me that the fish have not been as prevalent as last season. A number of 'jacks' are finding the bait, but the larger fish have proved quite elusive. Let us hope that river conditions improve before the middle of March when the season closes! Sea anglers have also found things pretty hard going, but on the positive side the rays are now showing particularly around Sheppey. If conditions are fairly settled through this month the plaice will begin to show along the Sussex coast. Let's hope they show in the numbers like last year when some amazing catches of these prime flatfish were made!

With the Spring just around the corner now is a great time for local fisheries and shops to make themselves known to Freshwater Informer readers. If your business is not appearing within the magazine's pages why not change that? Advertising in the Freshwater Informer is very affordable and effective and with our distribution coverage across the South East we can place your business in front of 1,000s of potential customers and visitors! Do give me a call, email or message via our Facebook page for a no obligation, no pressure chat to see what we can do for you!

Enjoy your fishing!
Barry Reed

The Freshwater Informer

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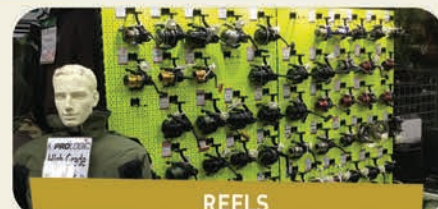
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COLIN



Sam - 30lbs



Old Lake



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Chris Smith – My UK PB at Elphicks!

Top Kent carper Chris Smith had a most memorable start to 2022 at Elphicks Fishery near Goudhurst and kindly provided us with this exclusive report:

"Every January I try to get a few nights on North Lake at Elphicks. It may seem a strange time of year, but as you are probably aware, it is difficult to get a booking on this great fishery and North Lake is one of the best lakes around for the chance of a real Winter prize!

I arrived at Elphicks on Monday 10th January for a four night session. There were three other anglers on North Lake when I arrived at first light around 7am. They were all set up on the wood side of the lake which was a result for me as there were four other swims that I fancied so I jumped on one and began to set up. My plan was to set up all three rods on the bottom over a lightly baited spot of maggots, corn, hemp and crumb with three different hook baits. I did this for the Monday and Tuesday with not so much as a single bleep, the lake was dead and no fish activity could be seen at all. The water was flat calm and cold with very high air pressure and conditions were not forecast to change much in the coming days. Come Wednesday morning the rods were still motionless so I made the decision to change how I was fishing and I decided to go all out on the zigs as I felt that the carp were not on the bottom.

48lb 10oz



Elphicks Fisheries



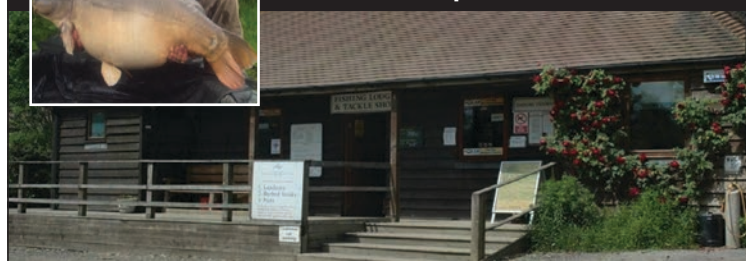
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24lb 4oz

The sun came up on Wednesday morning and as Tuesday night had passed without a bleep, I wound in and switched all three rods to zig rigs. I was fishing in around 8' of water so I spread the rods across the swim and set the rigs at 3ft, 4ft and 5ft depths. A few hours then passed and I had one or two bleeps on the 4ft rig so I changed all the rigs to fish at 4ft, this is easily done on the adjustable zig kit. I then felt good for a bite on the zig approach with it being so calm, flat and sunny. The air pressure had risen to 1043mb which is the highest I have ever known and I had to remind myself that it was only January! At 3pm my right hand rod burst in to life and I was in! After a short fight, a beautiful 24lbs 4ozs common was in the net and I was buzzing to have my first carp of 2022 and to know that my tactic change had worked!

At 6pm that evening the temperature had dropped significantly and frost was beginning to form on the gear. The forecast was for minus 2 degrees that night! All of a sudden my middle rod let out a couple of bleeps and then tore in to action! I picked up the rod and could immediately tell that I was in to a very good fish. It gave a slow dogged fight taking me left then right and managed to wipe out my other two rods. Now the other two rigs were tangled and attached to the fish I was fighting which made the fight increasingly difficult. As it was now pitch dark I had no idea what was on the end, but I just wanted it in the net! Eventually the fish began to tire and finally my fishing buddy Mike slipped the net under the fish. Once in the net we shone the headlight on to the fish and wow, it was huge! It was almost big enough to put a saddle on!

I had my suspicions about which fish this was so Mike checked some online photos and it was confirmed as the largest fish in the lake! I could not believe it! It was mid January and I had a new PB at 48lbs 10ozs in the shape of a huge mirror carp. I achieved my previous PB at 47lbs 1oz from Pullens Lake at Elphicks last August and I never thought that I would beat it so quickly, especially in January on a freezing cold evening!

48lb 10oz



After admiring this wonderful fish we took some awesome photos and slipped her back in to the water to fight another day. Following this epic event I made the decision that I was going to pack up the next morning and go home to spend some time with the family before going back to work. The change of tactics really paid off, two carp and a feeling of victory with a great big smile on my face to match! What a beginning to the year and I hope to look forward to many more magical moments!"

Plurenden Lane High Halden TN26 3JW

Kube Lakes



Oak Tree is a 1 acre lake formed around an impressive oak tree. This really is a beautiful lake, Oak Tree has only 4 double swims, one on each corner of the lake with an island in the middle. Depths range from 5ft to 8ft. Currently there are 47 catfish to 50lb, 20 carp to 22lb and a small number of pike, however, more carp will be stocked over the course of the 2021/22 winter.



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Lillies Lake

Lillies is still under construction, but will be a small tranquil lake of only 0.5 acre shaped as a horseshoe. Lillies will be, as the name suggests, covered in lily pads and only have 2 swims. This lake will be for the more experienced angler who wishes to have the whole lake to themselves with the opportunity to catch one of Kube Lakes finest carp! Lillies will be home to no more than 25 carp, all in excess of 20lb with a select few over the 30lb mark along with a couple of surprises! This water will also have it's own pod where anglers can shower, cook, sleep etc., and this is due to be ready for March 2022.

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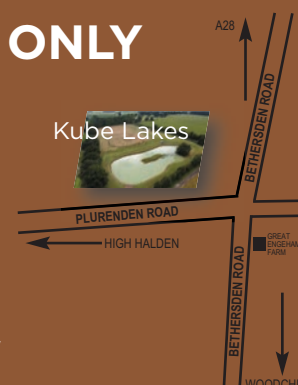
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Mousehole Lakes Paddock Wood, Kent



Elphicks Fisheries Horsmonden, Kent



Ben Wakefield - 34lb 6oz Prairie Lake



Karl Gilkerson - 35lb 4oz North Lake



Mark Pallett - 49lb 2oz North Lake



Chris Smith - 48lb 10oz North Lake



Chris Smith - 24lb 4oz North Lake



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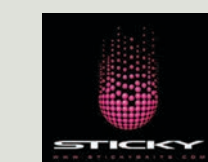
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Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

PLEASE NOTE :- To fish Snipe Lake, Westlake (Formerly Tuscany Lake) or Daughters Lake, there are certain tackle requirements in force. Please call or look on our website at www.beaverfarmfishery.co.uk

Well, hello everyone and it's good to be back after the Christmas and New Year break. Although we have been shut to anglers over this period, Ben and I have been in and doing a bit of work and we are continuing the winter work schedule as planned. As we mentioned in the last issue we are working on all of the lakes and ponds with tree work, removal of any



Terry Edwards - 7lb 2oz Moat Pond

snags in the water, all marginal cutting back and swim repairs where needed as well as assisting with anglers and their needs.

As of writing this report we have only been open to anglers for just over a week so the catches have been minimal and we have had to contend with temperatures of -4 on a few nights which hasn't helped! We have had a couple of carp from **Snipe Lake** banked, the first being a new stockie mirror of 22-06 which was caught by **Neil Barnett** on his first ever visit to Snipe Lake and then venue regular **Ian York** banked a mirror of 22-03 on a day session. **Jeff's Lake** has produced plenty of F1's, commons and mirrors to 4-08 and also a few bream **Moat Pond** has produced a couple of carp for **Terry Edwards**. **Daughters Lake** has, as usual at this time of year, been tough going. Maze Lake has been producing some silvers while **Majors Lake** has produced bream to 6-04 and a few pike to just



Thomas Pinchbeck - Majors Lake

over 17lbs including young **Thomas Pinchbeck** who banked a pike of 13lbs, just 2oz short of his PB. It seems the carp are still avoiding the anglers' hooks.

We will continue to have plenty of aeration on the lakes when we know the temperatures are due to drop so that it will ensure that we do have ice free water for the anglers to fish in. Hopefully, we will have a mild winter and that may encourage the fish to move about a bit more.

With the large investment in new fish again this winter in Moat Pond, Eden Pond, Daughters Lake, Majors Lake and Snipe Lake, Ben and I are very excited to see the fish that will be banked this year!

We both look forward to seeing you all on the bank very soon.



Ian York - 22lb 3oz Snipe Lake



Neil Barnett - 22lb 6oz Snipe Lake

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THE LEGEND RETURNS MARCH 2022

Robin Piper has put pen to paper and sent me this letter of his first visit of the year to Kent's Claygate Lakes near Marden:

Dear Barry, My last visit to Claygate Lakes was before Christmas when I saw that the water level on Lake Sophie was down for maintenance purposes. I delayed returning for three or four weeks so Dave could get on with the work. I was told that there was some extra fish put in to increase the stock for anglers to catch, perch and tench I believe. So today (12/1/22) I saw the weather forecast was clear skies and no wind and for a change some bright sunshine.

When I arrived at the fishery there were five cars in the car park. As the ground was waterlogged you were not allowed to drive to Lake Sophie so avoiding the puddles I settled down on the last but two swims. They have all been repaired and the foliage tidied up with just a few stumps left above the water line as the photos show. The small trees and bushes have been removed and although it looks a little bare at the moment it will make things a little easier in the future. Previously the overhanging bushes and branches attracted a variety of floats and other lost tackle!

There was only one other angler on Sophie fishing the pole on peg 12. I set up my usual gear, 10ft leger rod, 8lbs line, half ounce Pallatrax Stonze weight and a size 14 barbless hook set up as a running rig. I began feeding with a few loose prawns being that time of year with one on the hook. Sadly there was no action for the next hour and a half so I switched to some popped up bread and shortly after the tip pulled round and I had a small common carp of around 3lbs 8ozs. Nothing else happened after that despite fishing down the middle and trying the near margins. I noticed the pole angler was fishing tight to the far bank so I thought I would give that a go. I baited with a prawn and cast to some tree stumps opposite. The sun was beginning to go down behind the trees and I noticed the tip move a few inches, but that was it!



I decided it was time to pack up and started putting my gear away. I picked up the rod only to feel the line pulling through the rings and the swim burst in to life. After a short fight one nice common carp of 4lbs 8ozs was in the net so that was a nice surprise to end the day with!

Regards, Robin Piper



Early bird gets the pike!

Mark Day has been doing some short early morning sessions on the River Stour before work and managed these fine fish.



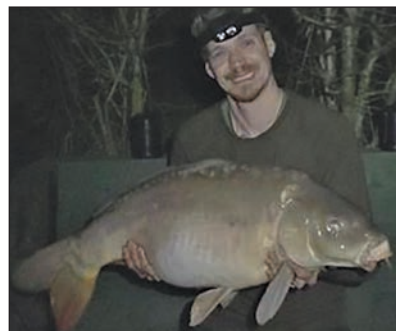
Mark's season hasn't been as prolific as the last, but he has still managed to find some nice fish.

Well done Mark.



New Year Social at Mousehole Lakes

Glenn Covill sent in this report after an enjoyable social session at Mousehole Lakes:



"Five of us booked Mousehole's Kestrel lake for a New Year's social. We had the first bite on the first day, but it was unfortunately lost by my brother Ryan Covill. As the evening rolled in he was rewarded for his efforts with a lovely mirror of 30lbs on the nose from peg 3. The second morning I rebaited and positioned my rods. I put the first one out back on my spot and then

proceeded to put the second rod out on a new spot that I had found and before I had sunk my line I was in to something fairly feisty! I kept my mouth closed as I didn't want to be made to look a fool when a 'tiddler' popped up, but 5 minutes later I was rewarded and surprised to find I had hooked a good sized fish but it wasn't a carp which was my target. I had managed to hook the only catfish in the lake which tipped the scales to 37lbs! Later that evening after redoing my rods for the night I was happy with my spots. At 10pm my middle rod went in to meltdown! After playing the fish past the islands and getting it in to open water, the fish showed itself in the reflection of the moon but with a quick turn of the head it came off and I was a bit gutted. However, I kept my cool, redone my bait and changed my hook as I noticed it was not as sharp as I liked it and flicked it back out in the night. It managed to land bang on the spot once again. Two hours passed and just before midnight my middle rod went into melt down again and I was playing what felt like a strong fish. Ten minutes later and I managed to guide a lovely shaped common that went 24.12 in to the net from peg 6. The rest of the lake was pretty quiet with no other bites to be had during the whole trip but it was a lovely social with great but strange weather for the time of year but I was very happy to open my



fish account for the year. Mousehole is a beautiful, well run fishery with cracking fish and facilities and we are now booked in for a lake exclusive in August on Kingfisher which we are all looking forward too. Tight lines to all and thanks for reading. Regards, Glen"

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BAIT AVAILABILITY DEPENDENT ON TIDE AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society

OLD BALLAST PIT The Pit continues to fish well for the Carp and Roach. Venue bailiffs **Kristy** and **Laurence** recently had a very productive session, landing 13 fish between them. The highlight of the session was Laurence landing a well known fish called 'The Paddle Tail' at 29lbs 3ozs. Kristy had fish to 20lbs 3ozs and both anglers had Bream just over 10lbs. **Luke Chivers** had a cracking session, landing 3 fish of 22lbs, 20lbs 7ozs and 19lbs 2ozs. The Roach fishing has been very good with good bags recorded and individual fish to over 1lb.

NEW LAGOON Still some Bream to 6lbs, Carp to 7lbs and Roach to around 1lb and the odd Tench to just over 6lbs.



Ben



Archie

BARDEN LAKE Society bailiff **Ben Jones** managed to get some Pike fishing in and was well rewarded with a stunning 26lbs specimen caught close in on float fished dead Roach.



Jamie



LONG REACH/NEW CUT

A few reports of Pike to double figures being caught on this popular stretch. Match regular **Pete Groombridge** turned his attentions to the predators and managed to get in on some action.



Matt Monterio - 39lbs 12ozs - Barden Lake



ENSFIELD BRIDGE A few members have been targeting the Chub on this lightly fished stretch. **Archie Loveland** managed to catch a fine specimen of 5lbs 8ozs and **Jamie Ross** also had some good sport finding the Chub.

HARTLAKE **Anthony Gould** and grandson **George** had some good sport targeting the Perch.



MATCH RESULTS

NEW YEAR MATCH Sportsground (20 fished)

1st	Bob Doyle	4lbs 0oz
2nd	Steve Parker	3lbs 6ozs
3rd	Austin Battell	2lbs 14ozs
	Ditch Howard	2lbs 14ozs

HOUGHTON CUP 5 Swanmead (15 fished)

1st	Mick Smith	15ozs	10 pts
2nd	Dave Williams	10ozs	9 pts
3rd	Derek Butcher	6ozs	8 pts
	Paul Mitchell	6ozs	8 pts
	Mick Orum	6ozs	8 pts
	Roger Trask	6ozs	8 pts

Standings with one round to go:

1st	Austin Battell	30 pts
2nd	Mick Smith	29 pts
3rd	Steve Parker	28 pts
4th	Derek Butcher	24 pts
5th	Tony Hoyland	23 pts
6th	Colin Fowler	22 pts

Day ticket:**£10 for x1 rod****£15 for x2 rods****24 hours:****£30 for x2 rods***(formerly Tanyard Fishery)***Day and night
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Latchetts Lakes Tanyard Lane Furners Green Uckfield TN22 3RL

Silver Fish Event at Coombewood Fishery

Alex Moulang held a Silver Fish match at his venue, Coombewood Fishery, near High Halden recently and told us:

"Sunday 16/1/22 saw the first ever 'Silver fish only match' on the Front Lake. Four specially invited experienced anglers, (plus myself!) fished pegs 8 to 12 for a highly competitive 5 hour match. The weights were extremely encouraging, with just 14ozs separating the top three and a total weight of 70lbs (14lbs each average). Not bad for the middle of January!"

Results:

1st	Chris Simmonds	17lbs 14ozs
2nd	Alex Moulang	17lbs 2ozs
3rd	Kevin Durman	17lbs
4th	Dave Barrington	11lbs
5th	Mark Davison	7lbs



For more information on fishing at Coombewood Fishery, call Alex on **07895 679569**.

Wylands Farm Battle, East Sussex

Despite cold weather setting in the fish are still feeding and sporting their full winter colours. Why not pay us a visit and catch yourself a winter carp. You can book via www.wylands.co.uk

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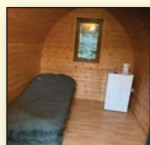


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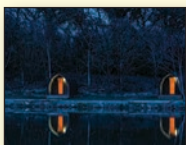
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Farm Shop



www.wylands.co.uk

We have just stocked many VS carp around the complex ranging from 15lbs – 24lbs.

Gift vouchers are available from reception an ideal gift for any occasion. Wylands are now taking bookings for our on-site accommodation packages for 2022, which includes fishing for the duration of your stay. Please contact reception for more info and to book. Our on-site tackle shop has an ever-growing range of baits and tackle. We have recently opened our on site farm shop stocking a large range of locally sourced produce.

Field Lake We are running private club matches on Fridays which have turned out to be very productive on the fishing front. All the anglers are catching with 50lbs bags of carp being a regular occurrence.

House Lake This water has produced a few bites and has been popular with the seniors where we run our reduced ticket rate on a



Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, please call **01424 893394** to get this discount.

Kell Lake Kell has been very popular. Those that have fished it have been rewarded with some lovely specimens.

Snake Lake Despite the weather, large bags of carp are being weighed in regularly. The Snake lake makes for some fantastic pleasure fishing throughout the week.



Dave

Old Spec The fish in Old Spec seem to be held up in large groups. If you can find these groups then multiple takes are on the cards. Some anglers have had 20 plus fish in a session. The lake is also producing far more double figure fish than ever.



Ollie

New Spec The fish seem to be growing and growing as the lake now holds many twenties and is now producing 30lbs plus carp.

Middle Lake The fish are feeding more in open water early evening and at night. This lake is fast becoming very popular with carp being banked to 28lbs.



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Sunday: Closed Bank Holiday: Closed



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for the latest news and competitions!**

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Since taking over in November 2019 we
have removed some of the smaller fish
and added some big scaly mirrors and
pike as our predatory fish, this is part of
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Follow us on Facebook
'Shirkoak Fishery'
for regular updates



www.shirkoakfarm.com

For more information please call
Hugh on **07973 410973**

Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hawkhurst, Kent

At the time of writing our lakes have been closed for the last 5 weeks; we do this annually to allow for works to be carried out around the site, as well as to give the lakes a rest. All lakes reopen 11th February and we look forward to welcoming you back onto the bank! We are taking bookings for Main Lake, Dove Lake, Specimen Lake and Quarry Lake so please do give us a call if you'd like to book in.



There is no need to book for day sessions on Four Trees Lake or Match Lake (if you are looking to book a Match, please contact us as we do have some availability for 2022 remaining). We are hopeful that Junior Lakes will reopen for February half term, but as always this is weather dependent, and a final decision will be posted on our website and social media nearer the time. Wishing you all tight lines!

Hawkhurst Fish Farm

Hastings Road, Hawkhurst, Kent, TN18 4RT

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reopen 11th February!

SPECIMEN LAKE Remains open to Members only

JUNIOR LAKES reopen 12th February (weather permitting)

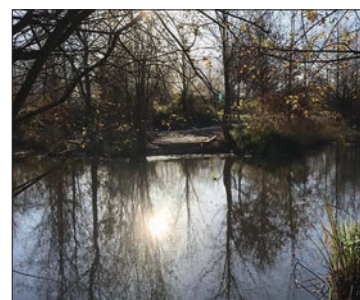
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Dove Lake!

www.hawkhurstfishfarm.co.uk

Gabriels Fishery Edenbridge, Kent

The quieter winter period has given us a chance to get many jobs started and also finished. We have carried out various maintenance jobs on the lakes and in doing so we have addressed some of the issues that the changing seasons bring. Work is still ongoing on Admiral lake with improving and defining the swims we already have in place and along with adding new swims and features. Our bait and tackle shop remains open 7 days a week and our team look forward to seeing you soon.

For further information about our beautiful fishery and well stocked tackle shop, please call 07730 066088.

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07730 066088

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Swallow lake- carp to 20lb

Hare lake- mixed coarse with 12 species

Silver lake- match water

Oak lake- carp to 30lb plus



Admiral lake (specimen lake)- stocked to 45lb.

To fish this lake you will need the following equipment:
42" landing net, a carp cradle with sides and an unhooking mat

River fishing try the weir pool for chub and pike

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Night fishing by appointment Access for disabled anglers

SANDWICH LAKES Sandwich Ash Road (A257), Near Canterbury CT3 2DA
email: enquiries@sandwichlakes.co.uk

Sandwich
Coarse Fishery

Visit Sandwich Lakes in 2022

Tel: 07936 409912

Sandwich Lakes is a delightful day ticket fishery in East Kent situated near to the Royal Cinque Port town of Sandwich. Set in a beautiful countryside location, the venue caters for all anglers from the specialist carp angler to beginners.

Our unrivalled facilities include:

A waterside cafe serving hot and cold food and drinks
Ladies and gents toilets • Plenty of free parking
On site tackle shop for bait and tackle • Rod hire

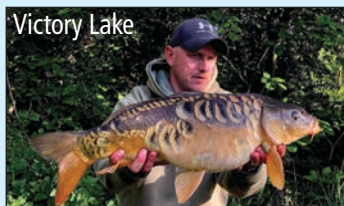
We can offer our visitors six coarse fishing lakes containing a variety of fish from silver fish to specimen carp. Matches and fishing lessons can be arranged by contacting our Fishery Manager Kevin Killeen.

The lakes:

VICTORY LAKE a specimen water of two acres with interesting island features and lily pads in the margins. Stocked with commons and mirrors to 35lbs along with ghost carp, tench, roach, rudd and specimen perch. Night fishing by prior booking available.

KINGFISHER LAKE this pond is 0.6 acres in size and is heavily stocked with commons and mirrors to 12lbs and is ideal for bagging up! All eight swims are wheelchair friendly with excellent access direct from the car park. A bridge from Kingfisher allows easy access to Victory Lake.

Victory Lake



Berry Lake



Damson Match Lake



Meadow Lake

MATCH LAKES - DAMSON AND VICTORIA one acre in size, each of these lakes are designed for the match angler having shallow margins with reeds for summer fishing and a deep drop off for light feeder work and winter fishing. They are stocked with a great variety of fish including carp to 16lbs and we believe these are the most uniquely designed match lakes in Kent!

MEADOW LAKE one acre in size with eight marked pegs and traditional grass bank fishing, Meadow is stocked with scaley mirrors and commons to 14 lbs. This lake also holds large perch and roach so you will be sure to catch!

BERRY LAKE is one acre in size and stocked with 3000 F1s, commons, mirrors, roach, rudd, perch and some large bream. Float and pellet tactics work well on this lake. IN the summer months, surface sport with mixers produces huge bags of fish.

Day Ticket Prices:

1 rod - £8 2 rods - £10 Family Ticket (2 adults and 2 children) - £25 Under 16s - £6 Sundowner (3pm to 7pm) - £6
Rod hire (includes seat hire & landing net) - £5 Night fishing 24 hours (by prior arrangement) - £20

Holidays at Sandwich Lakes

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Caravans & trailer tents £15 per night

Large motorhomes £18 per night

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The winner will receive 8 packs from the innovative new GRIPZ hook range.

The lucky angler will have a packet of sizes 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16, so will be equipped for all eventualities. This fantastic prize is worth over £40 RRP!

To be in with a chance to win this fantastic set of GRIPZ hooks, all you have to do is send us your catch photo via our Facebook message page or email barnic@btinternet.com Entry is FREE and all coarse fish photos are welcome! From a carp to a roach, send us your pictures! Please make sure you tell us where it was caught and it's weight.



Gripz Fishing Hooks

After extensive research, where the limitations of both barbed and barbless were scrutinised, there has been an obvious need for improvement thus resulting in this radical design that crosses the boundaries between what we have had and what we now have. Made from high grade Japanese wire, the key improvement has been the introduction of a series of minute horizontal grooves on the inside of the specially designed arrow shaped hook point, where historically the barb would have been. These grooves allow the hook to hold securely in the fish's mouth when pressure is applied, as the flesh presses into the grooves resulting in a firm hook hold with no slippage. **What are you waiting for?**

Grab your rods and head down to your favourite water and remember to take your phone or camera!



WINNER



The winner of the PALLATRAX GRIPZ
Hooks Set for JANUARY is...

RYAN LAMONT

well done!



Adam Collins - 27lbs Kingscote Estate Lakes



Wayne Steptoe - Kingscote Estate Lakes



Christopher Ryan - Sandwich Lakes



David Graveling - 24lbs Lake 12 Orchard Place Farm



Carl Alchorn - 18lbs 8ozs Swanborough Lakes



Russell Scrace - 17lbs Bewl Water



James Atfield - 10lbs 8ozs Club Lake



Dale Green - 16lbs Sandwich Lakes

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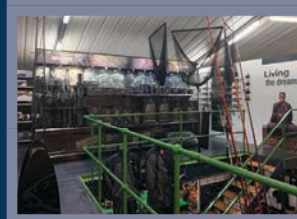
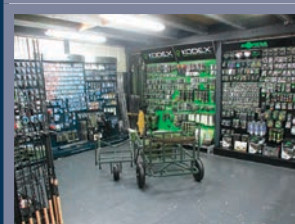
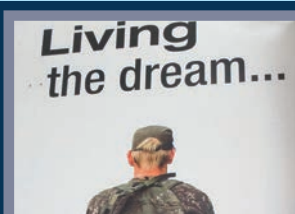
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The Willows Angling Centre, Bax Farm, Lower Road, Teynham, Kent ME9 9BU



Langley's Lake

A 3-acre specimen carp lake with hard fighting fish up to 30lbs. We only allow a maximum of 8 anglers at time on to this water which has a variety of features to fish to. Langley's is the largest lake at the venue and there are a number of additional fishery rules in place on this water. The average depth is around 5'. Get your tactics right and you can expect a great session!

£15 / 12 hours – £30 / 24 hours
No concessions.



The Stream

Approx 1/3 mile long with an average width of 30', this canalised section of water offers anglers the opportunity to fish with a pole or rod for a variety of fish including crucians, roach, rudd, bream, perch and tench. A very popular water for those who enjoy a more traditional style of fishing. The average depth is 4' and there are 60 pegs available.

£10 / 12 hours – £20 / 24 hours
Concessions available.
Match bookings available.



The Pan Lake

A more intimate water than Langley's with carp to 20lbs along with a selection of silver fish including roach, tench, barbel and perch. With an average depth of 5' and lots of features, this pretty water offers all anglers a great day out.

£10 / 12 hours – £20 / 24 hours
No concessions.



Farm Lake

An average depth of 4' with lots of features, this lovely water is well stocked with carp, bream, roach, perch and F1s. This water is a popular choice for families, young anglers and beginners and is close to the well presented on-site facilities.

£10 / 12 hours – £20 / 24 hours
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Marshside Lakes - River Wantsum - River Stour

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LAKES: Adult £10 with loyalty card £7

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Night Fishing 5pm to 7am: Adult £15 with loyalty card £12

Night Fishing 24 hours:

Adult £25 with loyalty card £20 / Junior as for Day Tickets

Night fishing: Only by prior booking.

Note: Juniors up to 13 years
to be with an adult - FOC

Contact Wantsum Angling Association on 01227 678063

or visit us at

www.wantsumaa.co.uk

We can also be contacted via the
Contact Us message service on the website

Greenacres Farm Fishery Biddenden, Kent

Speci 1 has been proving challenging at times with the weather being so up and down, but to those that are up for a challenge have been rewarded with a couple of fish. Solid pva bags over a small bed of particle seem to be the winning way of getting a few fish out. Also some lovely perch to be had with the biggest so far weighing in at a whopping 5lbs 3ozs!

Speci 2 still producing catfish with some lovely carp in with the mix. The catfish are slowing up now the temperatures are dropping but one or two are still showing. Catfish are being taken on heavy baited areas of mixed sized marine halibut pellets using lobworms or luncheon meat over the top. Carp are being caught by using small solid pva bags with a choice of bottom

baits, wafers or pop ups.

Heron A lovely mixed coarse lake that has been very popular with the regulars catching a lovely mixed bag of fish with the odd chance of catching a good size carp up to 15lbs, average carp being caught are between 6-7lbs. Large bags of skimmers being caught on this lake since the colder weather has settled in.

Kingfisher is a heavily stocked match lake and great fun with a guarantee of catching, brilliant for families or anyone wanting to teach their kids how to fish. Stay away from boilies in here and use natural baits like maggots, corn, pellets, worms on a light float fishing setup.

Bluebell A little tench pond tucked out of the way. This pond is showing a good number of tench being caught on float or feeder tactics using worm, maggot, paste or sweetcorn on the hook. The carp in here are also stunning fish that can be caught up to 10lbs, there are also roach, rudd, gudgeon and goldfish.

Kingfisher is also great for any club that is looking for a decent match lake where everyone catches and winning weights can be very close to call, so start booking your dates with us now for 2022!

Call Graham on 07933 934942



Our recent perch stocking



Ian Stones - 19lbs 8ozs



ORCHARD PLACE FARM FISHING

13 FISHING LAKES in the KENT COUNTRYSIDE

Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6NY

Tel: 01892 838576 Mob: 07860 608218



Carp to 49lb+



Catfish to 101lb+

At Orchard Place Farm you can surround yourself in the natural beauty of the Kent countryside, located just outside of the picturesque town of Paddock Wood, and only 8 miles from Maidstone. The fishery boasts 13 lakes - 10 carp and catfish lakes and 3 match/pleasure lakes.

SPECIMEN LAKES

DAY TICKETS

AVAILABLE

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48HR - £55

(additional charge
for 3rd rod)

FULLY FUNCTIONING LAKE 13 - CARP & CATFISH WATER

Many swims have disabled access • All-weather pathways leading all around the lakes and up to each individual swim • Purpose-built toilets located in the main car park (with hot shower) • Between Lake 3 and Lake 4 (toilet and sink block only) • Block constructed by Lake 7 also contains a microwave, fridge and washing up facilities.

FOOD IS AVAILABLE ON SITE FROM MID-MARCH TO OCTOBER

MATCH/ PLEASURE LAKES

DAY TICKETS

2 RODS - £10

CONCESSIONS

1 ROD - £8

www.orchardplacefarmfishing.co.uk

Tackle/bait/shop situated in the main car park, stocking all top bait brands inc worms maggots etc. Everything you need at VERY competitive prices.





GREENACRES FARM FISHERY



Sissinghurst Road | Biddenden | Kent | TN27 8EH

Located on the Weald of Kent in Biddenden we offer syndicate quality lakes for all. There is one specimen lake for carp up to 30lbs+, one specimen predator lake for carp to 27lbs+, catfish to 60lbs+ and pike, one match lake with twenty-two purpose built swims, one coarse lake and finally a tench/family pond. Facilities include a club house with toilets, shower, wet room and kitchen facilities.

This beautiful setting needs to be visited and enjoyed!

Prices start at £10 per session on the coarse lakes, £15 for the specimen lakes rising to £25 for a 24 hour ticket (£5 extra for a third rod).

Gates open at 7am and close at 7pm

SENIOR DAY TICKETS ON OUR COARSE LAKES HERON AND BLUEBELL ARE AVAILABLE FOR £5 MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY

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Firstly can I wish each and everyone of you a happy, healthy and fish-filled 2022. I hope you all had a great Christmas and Santa delivered lots of fishing orientated presents!



And so to my first, hopefully of many, fishing trips of the new year.

After weeks of depressing rain, the forecast was for a dry day, but with the Forecasters frequently getting it wrong, I opened my curtains expecting more rain, but was welcomed by clear skies and a frosty garden, the first frost of the year for us. Just what the doctor had ordered, a few hours on the bank armed with my spinning gear on a local complex called Simpson's Valley.

There are so many advantages to this kind of fishing in the depths of winter with predatory fish very much still active and feeding. You can go so 'light' with hardly any kit and, therefore, keep mobile, something that is sometimes overlooked. I will always advise you to go to the fish, hunt them out and never expect them to come to you! Obviously, it can be a challenge if you take everything, including the kitchen sink, but lure fishing is just a rod and reel, landing net, unhooking mat, Propolis and forceps (for fish care) and a selection of lures. All easily transported in a small rucksack with plenty of space for a flask and some nibbles!

It was great to feel the crunch of frost under foot instead of the puddles and mud and, as I set up my favourite spinner, the sun was now on the up, without a cloud in the sky. It really was stunning and though I only had a few hours I couldn't be in a better place. The glory of being amongst nature on a such a beautiful day – just one of the many reasons why I love fishing!

As a kid, I was introduced to spinning for Pike, Perch and Chub using a spinner called an Ondex. Nothing too complicated but they did, in many ways, replicate the main food fish for predators with the silver version being a Roach imitation and the bronze version being a Rudd imitation. My favourite one, and the one I have caught so many fish on, is the silver version and that was my 'go-to' on this day. The only change was I had 'retro' fitted the spinner with Gripz trebles, removing the barbed hooks, of which I am no fan. What we do know is that the Gripz hooks are incredibly sharp but, more importantly, really easy to remove from such a delicate fish.

I say delicate as many can think that the Pike is an aggressive fish due to the way it looks and hunts down its prey. The truth is, they really are a fish that need handling with the utmost care, though all fish do, and once caught need to be treated with a finesse on all fronts, from removing of the hook to holding in the net to ensure they are ready to swim off safely. I would always advise that, due to this, it is always a good idea to go with an experienced predator angler who can show you the ropes. These really are fragile fish and being shown how to handle and return them is of massive value.



Skylark Lake, Simpsons Valley

Only a few casts later and the first 'hit' and I was on. The adrenaline kicked in and my heart leapt! Such an amazing feeling and then the fight. Pike have a habit of tail walking as they try to shake free, but with firm, yet gentle, pressure my Gripz treble did what it



In the bag!



Ondex spinners with Gripz Trebles

The lake I was fishing, Sky Lark, is known to hold Pike and Perch along with some Rainbow Trout, all of which are happy to hit a spinner if I can find them, and as always location and depth is key to this style of fishing. In reality, the same goes for all styles of fishing! Though the Ondex is a light-weight spinner, with my balanced gear I could flick it out nicely and as it hits the water I then watch the line to see when it hits the deck. A quick flick to lift it off the bottom and then the retrieve, slow to fast and keeping it mixed up as I try my best to imitate a silver fish in distress. The 'thrumming' of the spinners blade is such a familiar feeling and reminds me of my childhood in Derbyshire, probably 40 years ago, when I cast out my first Ondex and caught that first Pike, such an awesome and incredible fish.



1st pike of the day

was designed to do and held firm and a few minutes later I slid my net under the first fish of 2022 – very happy times. As mentioned, this is when fish care has to kick in with the Pike gently placed on the unhooking mat and the Gripz safely removed using my forceps. A few photographs taken and then the fish, using my net, was transported back to the water's edge. This is where you must be patient and hold the fish, ensuring it is upright, for as long as it takes to regain its strength to then swim off safely and strongly.

Another word of caution, do remember that Pike have very sharp teeth and also you can get deep grazes from within the gill plate. Do consider wearing a 'marigold' type glove if you are inexperienced and do check out the great advice here - PAC Pike Handling Code (pikeanglersclub.co.uk).

Beautifully marked winter pike!



Fat trout!



I made the most of this short session by managing to catch one more similar sized Pike and a bonus Rainbow Trout, which had to be one of the plumpest trout I have ever caught. It certainly led me a merry dance as it hopped and skipped across the lake's surface!

Packing away to go back to the grind of running Pallatrax, (I actually love it really!), I can only reflect on a few hours of total bliss that our fantastic sport gives us and the reason why, after nigh on fifty years, I still get that buzz! Fishing is something very special and perhaps this year we can all take at least one 'non-angler' on a fishing trip to show them the wonders and get them involved, especially youngsters, as we should be doing as much as we can to get them participating.

Simon 'Pom' Pomeroy

For more information on fishing the Simpsons Valley complex please contact the Fishery Manager, Paul on 07855 413672

or visit their Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/simpsonvalleycoarseandtroutfishery/>

Till next time, stay safe and catch more, and if you have any questions please always feel free to contact me – simon@pallatrax.co.uk

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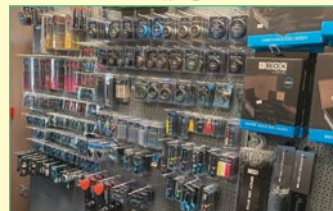
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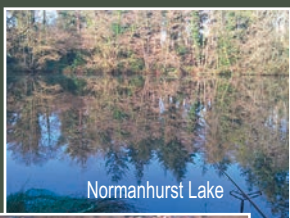
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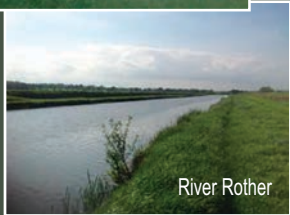
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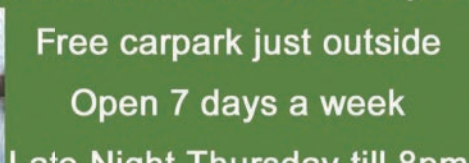
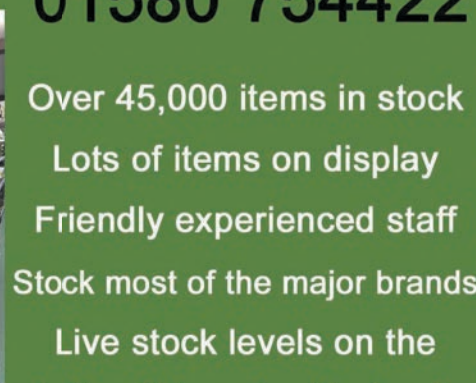
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The Golden Years of Coarse Fishing

by Bob Rolph

'Blue Mink' at Bough Beech

In the days before the internet, phones and emails, anglers used to correspond with each other regularly by old fashioned letter, and I was no exception, typing away on my mother's old Royal Typewriter with a carbon paper inserted for my copy! I became quite proficient in two fingered typing and two page letters used to be sent off to Hitchin, Oxford, Northampton and Buckinghamshire reflecting on our latest articles and catches, to the good and the great of the sport. All were eagerly received, even from young upstarts in their early 20s, just starting up in the sport!



We discussed all the latest ideas in rod design and tackle and the 1960s were innovative times for the emerging specialist tackle trade. I continue in this vane today, but by email, and the likes of Chris Ball, Pete Rogers and Bob Morris have to endure my 'piscatorial' musings! As I can't get the enthusiasm I once had to fish nowadays, this satisfies my still present interest in the subject!

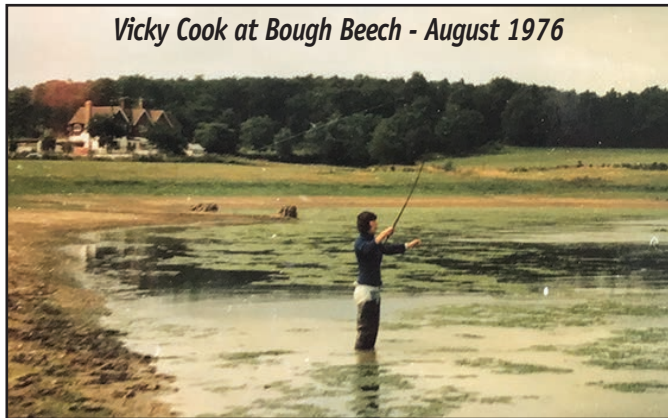
During the Spring of 1972 and long before Bewl Water opened, I had a £50 season ticket to fish for trout at the newly flooded Bough Beech Reservoir near Hever in Kent. The fishing was great from the bank, and was run by the East Kent Water Co. with Les Sawyer the resident bailiff living nearby. Fly hatches were prolific in the early mornings and evenings and both banks produced many a limit bag of 1-2 lbs trout for me in the months of May and June, on both lures and nymphs.

One day a letter arrived for me at home postmarked Acton, West London sporting a scent that quite intrigued me! It was from a young lady called Vicky Cook, who had somehow heard of me and wanted to go trout fishing!

Well, I thought all my Christmases had come at once and I eagerly put pen to paper and invited her to come with me to Bough Beech, where I would show her the ropes, so to speak! I was 26, single and in need of some excitement in my life, and the photo she sent me gave me great encouragement. There was no hint of who she was, but time spent in America intrigued me, where she had already tried her hand at fly fishing on the Colorado river and in Nashville, Tennessee.



Vicky Cook at Bough Beech - August 1976



"You're in for a thrashing today!", he joked, as I arranged Vicky's guest ticket with him. Bough Beech had several very successful lady anglers and the sight of a girl angler was not too unusual as we walked around to my chosen swims in the gathering heat of a perfect summer's day. Fish were showing all over the place between the weed beds in the low water conditions of a summer drought.

I tackled up first with floating line and a 'green longhorn' sedge pattern nymph which had been successful for me the day before. Showing Vicky the retrieve speed, I was straight into the first fish of the day, a lovely rainbow of 1lb 12ozs, which she duly netted for me with great professionalism, she really had done this before! Her expertise with the 'Priest' also encouraged me to get her tackled up and she was soon wading in my spare waders and showing me her beautifully executed casts with a #7WF floating line. No sooner was that first fish being put into the wet bass bag in the water's edge, Vicky was into her first English Rainbow Trout beating mine by a good 2 ounces!

We both paused for breath as I wanted this magical day to go on for ever and the limit was only 6 fish, so we regrouped on the bankside and I asked her about herself. Her brother it transpired was Roger Cook of the pop group Blue Mink who had recently had big hits with songs like Bannerman, Melting Pot and I Want To Teach The World To Sing, the Coca Cola advert song. His contemporaries in the group were Roger Greenaway and Madeline Bell, and I subsequently met them all at the Acton house where I also handled his Ivor Novello Awards for songwriting!

Needless to say I was very restless in the weeks prior to our arranged fishing date and visited the Reservoir many times to locate the fish and decide where the best swims would be for this date in July of that year. I found what they were feeding on in the prolific weed beds in the shallow water in Home Bay, Corixa, Sedges and Damsel larvae were being eaten in great numbers by the fish in the early mornings and I was successful with green longhorn fly patterns fished slow and shallow in the long channels between the weed beds. The fishing was not as easy as it is in May and June, but I could not fail in my quest to catch this girl some trout!

Arrangements were made and the due date arrived as we met one early morning for the journey down to the reservoir passing Westerham and Churchill's house at Chartwell. We hit it off immediately as she told me in her broad Bristolian accent of her life as the sister of a current major pop singer and composer and how she loved the peace and quiet of remote fishing venues. She had all her own tackle, but I just furnished her with the flies that I had caught on the previous week.

As we turned into the hut car park on the east bank near Home Bay about 8am, Les Sawyer gave me a knowing wink as he 'readied' the toilet for the day ahead.



Blue Mink

Vicky took to trout fishing like a 'duck to water', and was soon 5-2 up on me. Les Sawyer came round on his morning patrol and jibed "Never take your girlfriend fishing!" at me, "she is not my girlfriend!", I retorted. "Not yet she's not!" replied Les.

During the great drought of August 1976 when Vicky accompanied me at Bough Beech, the weed growth in the margins of the reservoir was extreme, as shown in the photos, and the water level was very low. The trout came right into this weed feeding on caddis, sedge pupae, and emerging damselfly nymphs, and they took anything that resembled one of these, including corixa (water boatmen). Long casting wasn't necessary, hence Vicky's great success, but that is not to detract from her great prowess with the Fly Rod!

Anyway, the outcome of all this was that Vicky thrashed me 8-6. I'm not stopping at six fish she said! Les had already chastised me in May for going over the limit, and returning fish, so I had to be firm with her and say we must stop fishing! I had already noted a likely looking barn where I thought we could retreat to if the fishing got too boring for her, if you know my meaning! Gutting fish was the nearest I got to any other form of activity that afternoon, but what a great day! I thought that we would do it all again in a week or so's time, but August would be very difficult for fishing if it became too hot. However, the event was repeated 3 or 4 times in that summer of '76, and Vicky beat me every time!!

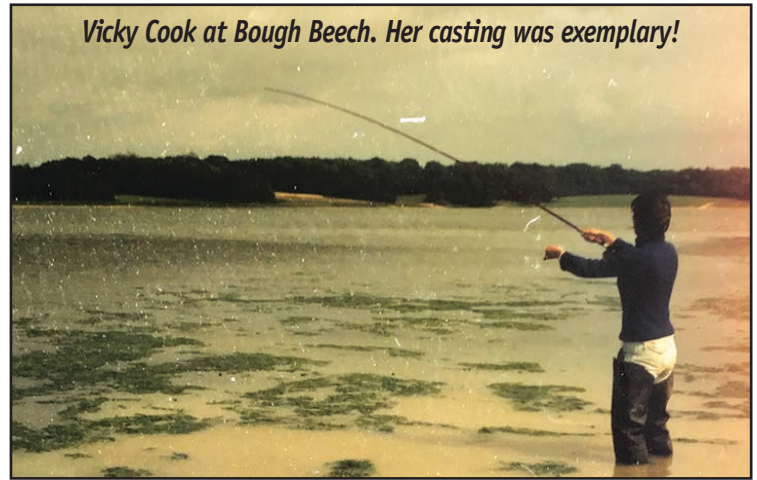
Sadly, nothing ever came of our brief friendship as my Father died suddenly that summer and I was in no mood for expert lady anglers, however appealing they were. I've made some mistakes in my time, but I never regretted my three months fishing and often wonder what became of her, the lady from the Fishponds area of Bristol, who taught me a thing or two about music and trout fishing! I've taken others trout fishing to many of the 15

reservoirs I've fished, but none could hold a candle to Vicky Cook, master trout angler and tamer of Bough Beech!

I continued to fish at Bough Beech, Darwell, Weirwood and Ardingly Reservoirs regularly until Bewl opened in 1978, and even had a season ticket at both for a season, Bough Beech in the mornings and Bewl in the evenings after work at Sevenoaks. Needless to say I was single then and living at home, who knows how my fishing life would have panned out had I pursued the young lady from the Blue Mink Stable!

I was now a Reservoir Trout Angler mainly, not a carp man, even though I had aspirations once to emulate my mates from the Redmire years of '66 - '68 when I was young and very green when it came to carp fishing. In the early days of trout fishing I used one piece 10ft 4 inch glass blanks from Oliver's of Knebworth. A pair fully made up were always in my van ready for a quick one hour session, one with lures and one with nymphs. They just fitted diagonally across the back of the passenger seats for a quick getaway. Some of my trips were of less than one hour and my record for a six fish limit was 20 minutes! Great days indeed!

Bob Rolph



Vicky Cook at Bough Beech. Her casting was exemplary!



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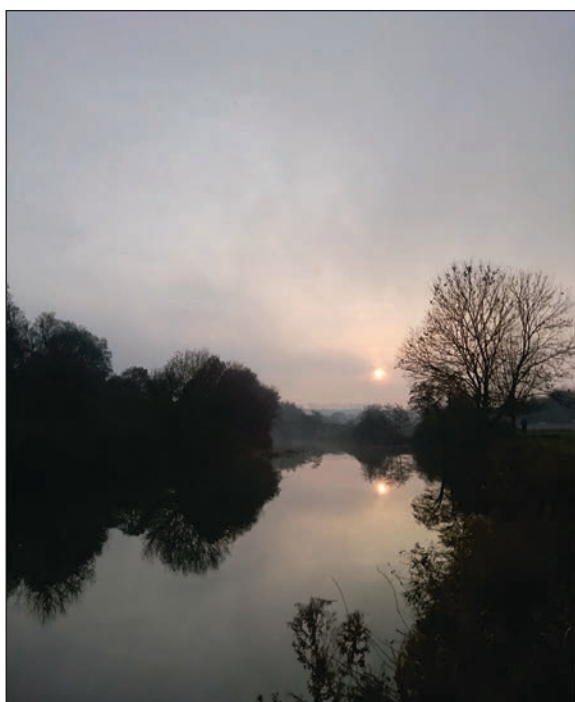


Medway Man

Bob Morris



It is starting to look like the problems that we have all been experiencing with the virus restrictions are now starting to ease a bit and I am really keeping my fingers crossed that we will soon be able to go about our activities, both piscatorial and otherwise, with a degree of normality. Having said this, we did have disruption to our plans over the Christmas period, when a member of the family tested Positive!



Winter on the river

We have been taking the lateral flow test regularly and I also volunteered for the Ipsos -Mori survey, where you do a PCR test, send the package back and then fill in an online survey. The results have all been negative - so no need to 'self isolate' or anything. Having said that, I guess that fishing on your own is just about as safe as it gets anyway.

The Pike are not very impressed with my efforts however and the last three sessions have all been blanks. There was an interesting session though a couple of weeks back during a spell of rainy weather in the middle of a cold snap. I arrived to find the water high, coloured and flowing quite quickly. In my experience, these are about the worst conditions for piking on a river at this time of year and I was tempted to give it a miss and visit a nearby lake instead. I decided to have a go for a couple of hours at least and was then amazed to miss a couple of takes within the first half an hour. I decided to persist for a while and after several more takes had ended without contact I started to get a bit suspicious and smell a rat - or at least a jack.

The thing is with my style of fishing with a hair rig and single hook, it is often the case that the small fish will not have the hook in their mouth when you bend into a take. However, by cutting right down on bait size (mackerel sections in this case) and leaving the take to develop for a longer period you can usually hook one or two and prove the point. On this occasion though this did not happen and I continued to feel nothing and several takes stopped when I left them longer. I started to suspect that Eels were the culprits although as I had never had any on this stretch before and the water being pretty cold, I was still not totally convinced.



Winter eels can cause confusion



Smaller pike are harder to hook on Bob's rigs

I have often noticed that Eels give good takes on relatively

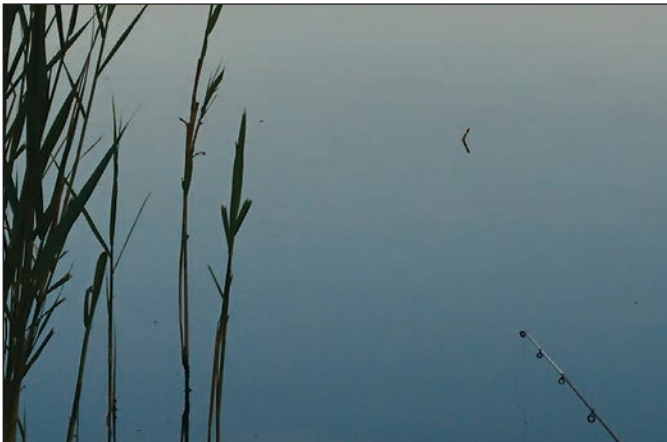
large baits, but resort to twitchy pulls if you scale down a bit and this was exactly what happened on this occasion. Eventually, I managed to hook one on a mackerel head side-hooked on a size 4 barbless single and I did this by holding the rod and waiting for a strong pull before bending into it. It was a decent Eel of about 3 lbs, but came off as I got it close to the net.

So, as I suspected the pike were not feeding during these murky conditions but the Eels had been triggered to come out and play by the relatively mild rain and coloured water. I have sometimes experienced Eel activity on still water at this time of the year and



Bob's single hook rigs are less likely to hook an eel!

for a variety of reasons and as mentioned before I had trouble with my website and have been unable to sort this out to my satisfaction. I would just like to ask my customers to use my email address and



Tench fishing again soon

this can be confusing - particularly when you are trying new tactics or rigs. I know that they often bury themselves in the mud during cold water spells and this was proved to me when we fished the Broads a few years back and several times caught pike that had Eel tails sticking out of their mouths during such periods. All interesting stuff and I might have a bit of a go for them on this stretch - as I don't mind a bit of Anguilla fishing if things are slow on other fronts.

Things have been a bit quiet on the rod building scene of late

phone number for any rod or repair

enquiries - as I will not renew the current arrangement. There are now signs that things are picking up again and I could have a busy spring. Hopefully not too busy - as I want to get out after those Tench again!

Another bit of news that I can now reveal is that I am now working on a new book that will be based on a similar type of material/ format to the 'Medway Man' column and I am delighted to have had quite a bit of interest in this already - so I will finish by saying that I shall be giving more news on this subject shortly - watch this space!



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Hello and welcome to the February edition of Junior Informer!

January was quite a tough month for fishing across the region! We had some cold frosty days and nights and the air pressure has been very up and down. To add to that we also had some very wet days which does little to make you want to go outside! However, although February is still a Winter month, the last of the Winter months thankfully, we can begin to look forward to Spring which is not very far away now! You will begin to notice the buds appearing on trees and shrubs in the garden and the daffodil and crocus bulbs will begin to emerge from the ground. All these are great signs that Mother Nature is getting ready to change and that also means that the fishing and weather will begin to improve.

I daresay that many of you will have had lessons at school talking about climate change and the effects that this has on our planet. There is no doubt that our Earth has warmed and we need to take serious steps to combat this change before it becomes irreversible. Our seasons have changed and you may well have spoken to mums and dads and grand parents about the seasons that they experienced when they were younger. There is no doubt that our winters are milder than in previous years and I can remember regularly walking to school during the cold months when the snow would come over the tops of our wellies and we would spend most of the day in the classroom with wet socks and trousers! Nature also needs to have changes in temperature as this has a dramatic effect on plant and animal behaviour. Although Winter can be tough on some species they are genetically 'built' to accommodate these changes to make them fitter and stronger. Indeed we as a specie also benefit from the seasons as the cold weather helps us to build immunity and a strong system. If you have been out fishing recently and been lucky enough to catch, I am sure you will have noticed how healthy and fit the fish appear to be? Their colours and condition are amazing as you may have seen from last month's front cover photo of Joe Wrate's lovely perch from a local river! Now is a great time to feel positive and begin to plan your fishing trips for the coming months, whether it is exploring new venues, replacing the line on your reels or having a good tidy up of the tackle box, there is always something that you can be doing so you are ready for the 'new season'!

Good luck when you do go fishing and don't forget to send us your catch photos! Please remember that we do need the permission of your parents or guardians to print your catch photos!

Enjoy your fishing! Barry Reed



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Smith



Finlay Parker



Deniz Hudaverdi - 13lbs 3ozs Sittingbourne Front Lake



A Champion in the making!

Leigh Harman sent in this report of young Pharis who is becoming a very good young angler!

"We have been fishing at Shirkoak Fishery near Woodchurch on a number of occasions and Pharis has had a string of carp and on each session he seems to beat his previous PB!

Recently we returned to Shirkoak with the intention of catching a pike but after trying all morning we hadn't had a bite at all. So in the afternoon I suggested we try for a carp and Pharis caught this lovely common of 13lbs 4ozs. I think you can tell from the photo that he was extremely happy!



I have been teaching him a number of different fishing methods and he loves fishing the pole and quiver tip. Even after a tough day with no bites he still says that he has had a fantastic day out!"



Louie is loving his fishing!

Louie's proud grandad Robert Finch sent in this great report about his grandson who is loving every minute on the bank!



"I have been teaching my grandson Louie how to float fish over the past couple of years as I believe it is dying out somewhat, but last week I took him pike fishing! After a while with little happening, I told him I was going to have a look for another spot. I advised him what to do if he had a take. Louie came and found me about ten minutes later very excited jumping up and down on the spot almost uncontrollably as he told me that he caught a pike!

We returned to the swim and there in the net was his pike! He had struck at the right time and played the fish, steering it away from the trees and guiding it to the net all by himself. He then secured the net on the bank with the fish safely resting inside. I am now 66 years old and for what time I have left will take him fishing as many times as I can and I know that he will carry on fishing for the rest of his life and enjoy some wonderful fishing expeditions on his own with the knowledge taught to him by his loving grandad."

Robert Finch

Want to be a part of the Freshwater Informer?
Send your catch photos and reports to
email: barnic@btinternet.com

Bobby is a dazzler!

Proud grandad Terry Holt sent in this report about his grandson Bobby who is proving to be a top young angler:



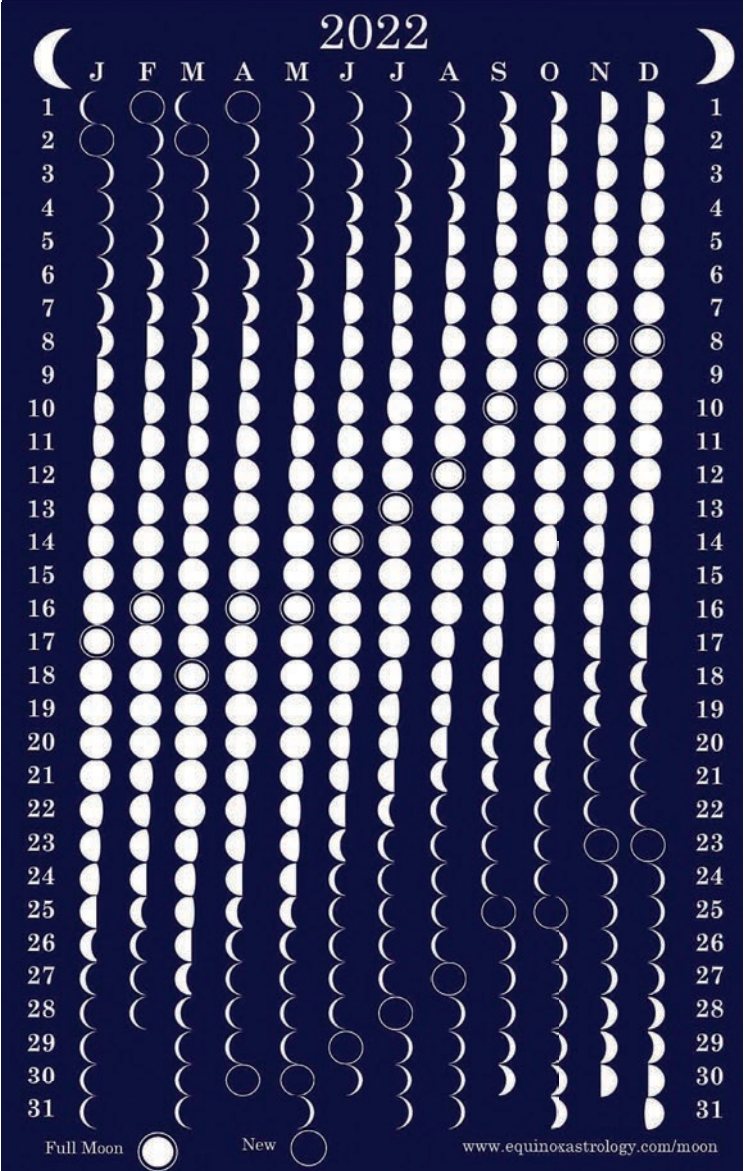
"This is my grandson Bobby Holt. I started taking him fishing when he was about 6 and he is now 8. He has slowly progressed from fishing for little roach and perch on maggots which he loved. As you can see, he can catch on the float and he will catch on the feeder. He will not let me help him with the landing net as he wants to do that himself and he handles the fish really well on the bank. He loves doing the catch photos and is a good picture poser! In fact if he gets any better, I will have to ban him as he is becoming better than me!

I am very proud to be his Grandpa." **Terry Holt**



Are Moon phases important when fishing?

Many anglers believe that different phases of the moon affect the fish, both freshwater and sea, when it comes to feeding and behaviour. This chart provides the various phases of the moon throughout 2022!



February update

by Director Charles Jardine

Into the future ...brightly!

There is something very special about a New Year; even when all the wishes have been given – and received. When the bottles of fizz have been dispatched to the recycling centre, there is still that wonderful feeling of optimism; a real sense of bright possibilities.



I suspect for many – including we at Fishing for Schools – it is the very real and tangible belief, that we are shaking off the cloak of Covid misery. A grisly pandemic that has reached into everyone's lives and altered us. We are gradually seeing light! In my small world, a New Year means new beginnings and shoots of growth. We have a new cohort of schools, we have four Castaway events and we also have, of course, some old friends in the mix, too.



In Kent, we have a slightly altered landscape; our colleague and my friend, Warren White has elected to move slightly from the frontline to concentrate on Rowhill School and the quite extraordinary work that he has and is doing at that school with his angling initiatives; his considerable 'shoes' will be filled by the very able David Evans, assisted by that consummate fly fishing legend that is Bob Goble, The Barbel Maestro, Ian Tucker, the specimen guru- Kevin Durman (and there can be few better coarse fishers in the UK than Kevin), and some new faces too...! Phil Wilkinson will be joining our merry band and as many of you know, Phil's prowess with Pike is extraordinary.

We will also be joined by Steve Scrivener on a more regular basis; again, an extraordinarily talented coarse angler and hugely experienced with both the pole and general coarse and match fishing ... added to which, we have Patrick Kelleher – a well-versed Carp fisher and recently retired deputy-head teacher. The sum of all these parts is an incredibly talented and diverse group of educationalists, coaches and anglers – all caring human beings. The last element being, arguably, the more essential in the often troubled worlds in which we coach.

As I say, our Fishing for Schools future in the area shines brightly. Another star twinkling away in our new year firmament is Castaway. After the resounding success of last year's inaugural event held at Sportfish Game Angling Centre at Reading in September we are planning a return trip in April – which is, as it stands, near, or indeed, full. But...we are going to hold four further initiatives; one in Wales, one in Scotland and one in Norfolk... it would be lovely to think that we might hold one in Kent in 2023.



The concept is simple and so very beneficial – we take our brilliant coaches and put them together with brave people recovering from cancer treatment and in turn introduce them to angling – in all its forms – good, nutritious food, food preparation, fly tying, rig making – even Art. All these elements have a soft and relaxing nature which will nurture, as opposed to create conflict or harshness.



We like to think that all of these angling related options are life affirming and offer a possible pastime for the future. The idea is to then create an almost self-help community which will interact and grow even stronger. The whole project is in its infancy but, given the enthusiastic support and welcome it has received, I think that this year will see Castaway truly established as a major force.

Just in closing and just as exciting in its own way we are planning to work with both Brian Bailey at Hadlow College and the Angling Trust in bringing a cluster of Level One Angling coaches into being... another Fishing for Schools initiative to be celebrated. One of the first of these coaches will be the past student and F4S Ambassador, Sam Weedon. Sam, who has embraced angling in the most extraordinary way, has risen above some school difficulties and through sheer passion for the sport and determination to succeed, advanced into further education at Hadlow. I have absolutely no doubt whatsoever, Sam will become a talented and hugely influential coach in the not too distant future.

What a New Year it promises to be.... Actually, what a Year, it promises to be.... Watch this space! **Charles Jardine**



BACK TO THE FUTURE

by Sam Cox

As I have got older, I have become lazy with my sea angling, stuck in my ways, and to be honest at times disillusioned and angry. Too often I choose the path of least resistance, opting to plot up at one easy to reach location and fish large live baits. Of course, this method will produce good sized fish from time to time. This has become my go to method leading to countless fishless hours, and of late, my attitude has become negative. Due to current issues, there are many more people fishing, some have not fished for years, and some have never fished before. Many of these guys don't see a problem with fishing ten yards away from other anglers or discarding their litter into the environment.

For the above reasons I have not been sea angling as often this past year, instead choosing to wallow in my own misery, until now. I have found a cure for my self-inflicted grumpiness, its name is James!

James is a 12-year lad who has often shown an interest in coming fishing. In mid-September it was arranged for James to join Andy Easy and myself at Dungeness for a morning's fishing. The session started well with James reeling in a few whiting and a single dog fish, but then it went dead for three hours. To my surprise James enjoyed it and was happy to take home a few fish for his supper.



James first pike 8lb

James really wanted to catch a pike; like most 12-year-old boys he is very keen on his food and had asked his Dad what pike tastes like. After explaining the ethics of coarse fishing, we planned our next adventure. I opted to split the day into two halves, we would plot up at one spot for the first few hours of daylight, and then employ a roving approach along a ditch that never fails to throw up a few jacks. I didn't want James's first pike session to be boring, kids today expect instant results and this little drainage ditch certainly produced them.

I armed James with an 8 foot, 2.5 test curve stalking rod and end tackle was a simple small sliding float to 18 inches of wire trace. The hook was a 2/0 circle hook with a chunk of herring mounted on a bridle. I set the depth at two feet as this ditch is only about a foot and a half deep. As James is new to angling, I gently made an underarm cast to the opposite bank just beneath an overhanging tree, I set the drag then handed the rod to James. After explaining to James that his rod was not a magic wand, he soon got the hang of it and was gently twitching the bait back when a pike latched onto the herring bait. James then proceeded to try and pull the pike's head off, to his credit he gave the fish no slack, managing to keep control as the pike took off downstream like a missile. After a spirited scrap, a lovely marked pike of eight pounds lay in the net. James's smile was magic! He then went on to land a further five pike and a decent eel of around a pound.

I am a firm believer in a common sense approach to angling, especially when it comes to taking sea fish home for the table. All too often the 'social media police' are far too quick to condemn and abuse anglers for keeping fish to eat. Over recent years the catch and release fraternity has grown and now even influence fishery policy. Rather than adopt to teach a common sense approach, the minority have, without our permission, spoilt it for the rest of us.

After our Dungeness session James was keen to catch more table worthy fish, so we arranged another sea fishing trip. I opted to fish Hythe in the morning and Dungeness in the afternoon. James managed a nice plaice of around a pound and a few whiting from Hythe, then again, the bites dried up. Dungeness as expected was very busy, so we fished in front of the power station away from the crowds. The fishing was slow but consistent, James managed half a dozen dabs, one good sized flounder and even a late mackerel that picked up his black lug bait. James was very happy to take a good feed of fish home to his family, and duly sent me many photos of the fish being prepared and cooked.



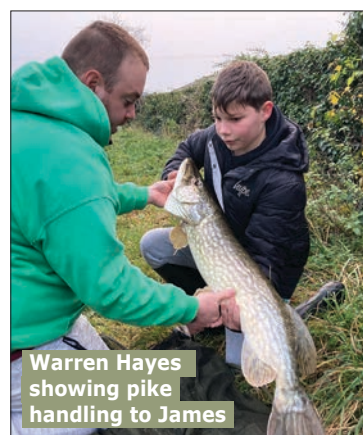
James preparing his catch



Dinner is served

I had promised James a session a few weeks later, but, to be frank I wasn't really in the mood after staying up late to watch the boxing, it had also turned cold. I decided we would just fish the morning at Laser Quay on the Medway. This is an easy mark where we could sit in the van and keep warm while watching the rod. I set James up with a basic two hook paternoster rig, baited the hooks with lug and cast it halfway across the river. As it turned out James spent very little time in the van and was kept warm by reeling in double shots of whiting. Many of these were below the 27cms minimum landing size (MLS) and were returned. We were using size one fine wire hooks to make unhooking easier. I made a deal with James that even if a fish was over the 27cms MLS and was lightly hooked it would go back, basic common sense.

We had only been fishing around half an hour when two anglers set up next to us. Very quickly they set up four rods, then what I can only describe as carnage ensued. Every cast resulting in deeply hooked double shots of whiting. The anglers were using a dry rag to hold the fish and the gulls were kept busy for the next two hours feeding on the dead and dying whiting as they drifted on the tide. This was a good lesson for James on good and bad angling ethics. He could easily see our fish swim away, and that the other anglers' fish did not, like me he could not see the point in their approach. By the end of the session James was casting by himself and managing an impressive 50 yards! James went home with fourteen decent sized whiting for his tea and a big smile on his face. Again, proud fish preparation photos were received by myself.



Warren Hayes showing pike handling to James

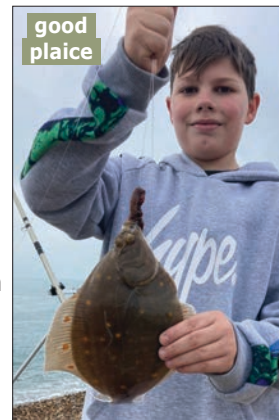
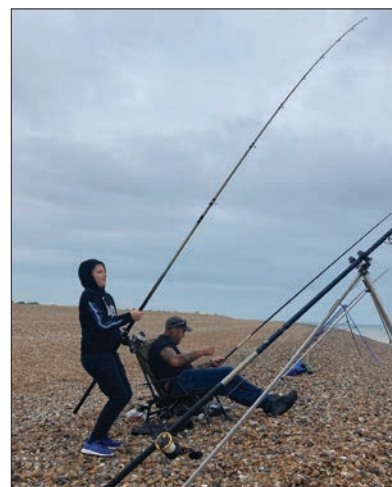


James with his 16lbs 14ozs RMC pike

Our next few trips would be for pike, including Christmas Eve where James learnt another valuable lesson. This lesson was to accept a blank and learn from it. One of these pike sessions was for James to join myself and two friends on the Royal Military Canal (RMC), where James caught his personal best pike of sixteen pounds fourteen ounces, a stunning fish indeed.

James got some very nice fishing tackle for Christmas including a decent rod and reel. He christened his new kit on the 3rd of January with two hard earned jack pike, again on the RMC.

As much as I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching James the basics, I can't help but feel that I have benefited far more from the experience than he has. It has rekindled a fire in me that at best was just a smoulder, it has allowed me again to see angling through fresh eyes. Undoubtedly teaching James will lead to me catching more and bigger fish!

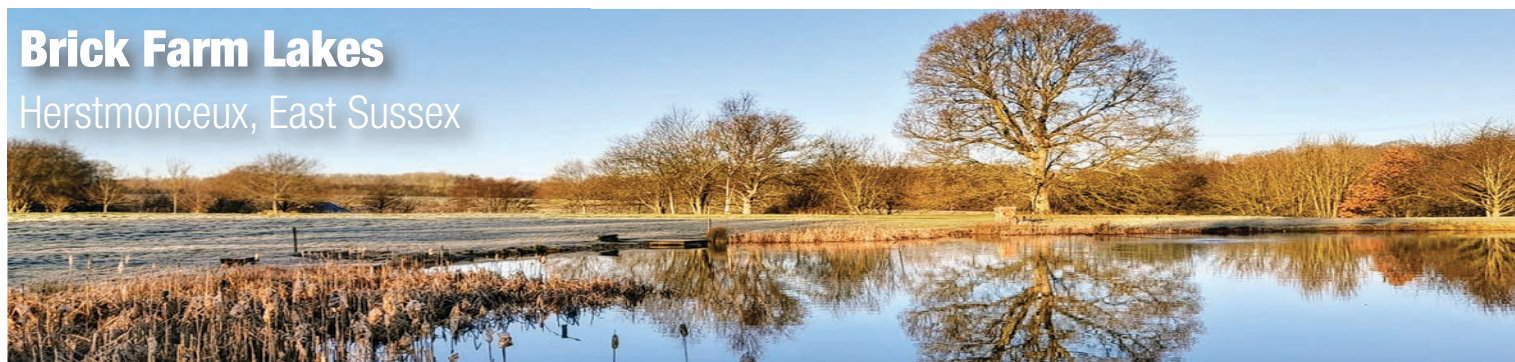


good plaice

TROUT INFORMER

Brick Farm Lakes

Herstmonceux, East Sussex



The new year has brought with it some lovely weather for fly fishing and some lovely fish to prove it! We are enjoying the crisp mornings and the fish are responding well to the fresher water – they're hungry for all sorts, from hot headed cat's whiskers and the ever popular blue flash damsel to buzzers and even the odd fish has been caught on the dry! The fish are generally higher in the water, but intermediate lines are still giving an attractive presentation too.

Notable catches of recent include **Nick Wiles** who landed a wonderful 8lbs Brownie from Spring Lake and young **Harry Nicholas** was thrilled with his 3lbs Rainbow which he was entirely in charge of the retrieve of. **Newick Crown Fly Fishers** visited us for a group day early in the new year, and **Mr Mace** caught an 8lbs 9ozs Brownie on a damsel – celebrated by him buying a round of beers for his group from our fully stocked bar!

That said, our 2022 diary is now open and we are beginning to get some bookings for group days, so if you would like to visit with some friends or for an event, please give Danni a call in the Lodge on **01323 832615**.

Nick Wiles - 8lb



Harry Nicholas - 3lb



Mr Mace - 8lbs 9ozs

Tenterden Trout Waters Tenterden, Kent

January was a good month for fishing at Tenterden with some quality fish being caught and putting up a good fight for our Anglers. We are now heading nearer to Spring, with the bulbs appearing and the weather has been amazing for the time of year. All good for the soul and your fishing too because the Trout respond well to the colder weather. Intermediate lines have been working well and Montana has proved to be a popular pattern. All 3 Lakes (just under 5 acres of water) are fully stocked with quality Trout so make sure you fish them all when you are here to get the maximum out of your fishing, we suggest you move every hour. We have some quality Brownies and Blues in Lake 3 as well as Rainbows. We do request that our Brownies are returned to the water. Our Lakeside Fishery Lodge is open for you to enjoy providing tea/coffee with our compliments. We have great facilities as you can see from the photo with kitchen/dining/sofa, toilet and lakeside balcony where you can relax. Please call or email gaynor@coombe-farm.com 01580 763201 to book your fishing. If we don't answer please leave a message, name and number and we will get back to you asap. We will limit our numbers to 12 Anglers fishing at any one time to create the space you all need. Our booking system facilitates this well and we will continue to use it from now on.

Stay & Fish Our Shepherds Hut accommodation is open for both Anglers who wish to stay and fish and for other guests who just welcome a short break away. If a staycation is of interest to you this Spring/Summer then we are offering 20% off our permit prices if you stay in our Ghillies Hut. For more info discover our 'Shepherds Hut' heading on our website with a direct link to Airbnb – click on Availability and Bookings. Fishing Tuition can be booked direct with Richard Stokes, our Instructor, please email richard@coombe-farm.com. For an up-to-date fishing report please go to our website: www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk and click on News/Fishing Report. You will find an Aerial Tour on our Home Page so you can view our picturesque Wealden setting. Please follow us on Instagram and Facebook and visit our Gallery. We are one of the Top 50 Stillwater Trout Fisheries in the British Isles and a Trout Master Water. Gift Vouchers for that special present which can be purchased by bank transfer, cheque or cash. Please call **Gaynor on 01580 763201** or email: gaynor@coombe-farm.com – we can email/send them out for you. We look forward to welcoming you here for some exciting Winter fishing at our friendly Fishery.

Tight Lines – Gaynor, Richard, & Audrey

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*We aim to provide an excellent day's sport
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Brick Farm Lakes Trout Fishery

Prices start from £32 for 2 fish
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Corporate & group bookings welcome
with food options available

Set within the stunning East Sussex countryside, Brick Farm Lakes is a friendly family run Trout fishery comprising 4 lakes stocked with Rainbow, Blue, Golden and Brown trout, from 2lb upwards, including some double-figure sizes to challenge our anglers. Set back from the road, almost in a secret valley of its own, we have a superb oak-framed lodge overlooking Brick Lake. The lodge provides a warm and welcome space offering complimentary tea & coffee for anglers, along with homemade cakes and other refreshments.



Tel: 01323 832615 / 07730 277118
www.brickfarmlakes.co.uk

The Fishing Lodge
Brick Farm
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East Sussex
BN27 4RS

SUSSEX BRANCH of the FLY DRESSERS GUILD



SPRING AUCTION

SATURDAY 5TH MARCH 2022

OVER 200 LOTS INCLUDING:-

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- Game, sea and coarse fishing tackle
- Books and miscellaneous items

at 12.30pm sharp (viewing from 11.45am)

Hurstpierpoint Village Centre
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www.sussexflydressers.org.uk

or contact Alan Wells on 01273 689054 or wellsywells@btinternet.com

WANT TO TIE INSTEAD OF BUY? Why not join Sussex Fly Dressers Guild?



Having been fly fishing for about 10 years and made some YouTube tutored efforts at tying with limited success, some 6 years ago, I took the plunge and joined the Sussex Branch of the Fly Dressers Guild, on a visit to the iFish event in Haywards Heath. Don't be put off by the slightly 'pompous' sounding name, as the Guild is made up of ordinary anglers, rather than all retired colonels who fish for salmon on their buddies estates. (Apologies to Colonel Fuller).

Although there is a stepped progression through nationally recognised Bronze, Silver and Gold awards, you can adapt to the courses in any way you like or just come on the 'free tying nights'. We do happen to have the largest number of Gold Awards of any branch in the country, so there is no shortage of skilled tutors. However, what I like is the friendly atmosphere and the chance to pick the brains of anglers who have often been fishing for far longer than me. I don't think there is a much better feeling in fly fishing than catching your first trout (or salmon) on a self-tied fly. We also run a series of fishing events with friendly competitions on small waters and reservoirs both intra and inter club and it's not just game fish. We run several 'carp on the fly' days at local waters such as Passies near Steyning or Falkenhill near Polegate, when the strength of your fly gear and your nerve will be well and truly tested. We also tie and fish for saltwater fish like bass and mullet, which are becoming increasingly popular quarry.

Among our ranks there are also several well qualified casting coaches whom we can call on for at least one free session a year. We also run a twice yearly auction of tying and fishing materials, which includes coarse and sea angling gear as well as game stuff, much at amazingly low prices and open to any member of the public.

We are now based at Clayton Village Hall near Hassocks at 7.30pm on Thursday nights, so why not come along and give it a try. If you decide it's for you, the amazingly low yearly price of just £35 includes 23x 2-hour tying sessions between September and April, 2 speaker nights (past speakers have included well known anglers such as Charles Jardine and Peter Cockwill), a monthly newsletter and membership of the FDG at national level. They provide a quarterly magazine devoted to fly tying in all its guises and access to discounted angling and tying gear. I don't know of any better value 'pastime organisation' of any sort in the country.

Alan Wells Events Organiser SFDG

If you need more information or wish to join please contact Andy Wood on:
fdgsussexmembership@gmail.com

Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman

Lure Fishing

Fishing with friends

The Christmas holidays gave me the opportunity to fish with friends I'd not seen in ages. The 'four amigos' got together shortly after the big day for some pike fishing on Bewl Water. Having fished with Gary Collins and James Gardner recently I chose to fish with Mark Bryant. I usually fish in Mark's boat on the south coast chasing bass, wrasse, bream or conger. It was my turn to return the favour and be the skipper.

It was a strange day as the high barometric pressure saw thick fog across the whole reservoir. Our two boats headed off into the gloom, using our sounder's GPS to guide us to our fishing spots. Eventually we arrived at our chosen areas, not surprisingly we were alone. It was eerie casting our lures into the swirling mist waiting to hear the splash that told us our baits had reached their destination. Watching the line peel off the reel I waited for my shad to reach the bottom before commencing the retrieve. It was slow going but I was content to search the area casting all around the boat, to make up for the lack of drift. My plan was to keep my lure very close to the bottom feeling my way around looking for the structure that held perch, and I hoped would draw pike. Although I couldn't see them I could hear Gary and James chatting and laughing somewhere in the distance, sounds travel so much further on foggy days.

The morning passed slowly, Mark stuck to his larger 6" [15cm] shads hoping to encounter a Bewl beast while I happily picked off a few feisty perch on my smaller 10cm baits. I repositioned the boat several times working the now familiar area hoping one of us would connect with an elusive pike. Gradually our search area widened but without success. I managed to lose a few lures as I fished closer and closer to the structures, if you're not snagging then you're not fishing close enough! Never mind that gives me an excuse to buy some new lures! By lunch time our confidence



Even roach are partial to Vibe lures!



Mark Bryant's biggest pike from Bewl so far.....!

in the spots was exhausted, time to look elsewhere. We now headed back to the main basin if we could find it as the fog had thickened once again. I was motoring towards Beauman's point heading towards the cages, or so I thought when I ended up in Canoe Club Corner, how did that happen?

Embarrassed I got my bearing again and set course for the cages to seek some shelter and have some lunch. Matt Peverall was already there hunkered down and catching a few perch on the 'Ned' rig. We tied off on the opposite side of the cages; this gave me a chance to try a Ned rig too. One very small perch, a "wasp" and a micro pike duly obliged. I was happy to get some action at last after a blank few hours. The mist now turned to light rain making it difficult to decide whether it was day or night?

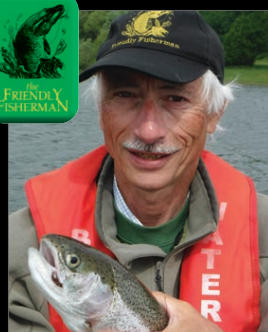
I started tidying up the boat packing away all non-essentials. Another gruelling day on Bewl was coming to an end; you have to suffer a few of these if you fish reservoirs. Don't believe all the hype about, "easy pike" on trout reservoirs. Trout waters do contain dream fish but they rarely give them up easily, you have to be very confident in your tactics and methods to succeed and not be deterred by blank days.

The light was fading fast as Mark set the hooks in to a solid fish. At first I thought, thank goodness a fish at last, but quickly realised it was a proper one! I had the net ready just in time to see an enormously broad head appear out of the depths. It rolled on the surface just out of netting range and turned powerfully away, Mark skilfully steered it back towards the boat and I gratefully shuffled it into the net. It looked huge even bigger than the one I caught a few weeks earlier! After hastily unhooking the fish we hoisted the sling, now the moment of truth; we both look expectantly at the scales dial face, 23lbs on the button.

I was surprised it didn't weigh more, its broad head had deceived me; the fish was longer but leaner than the one I caught, but it was still a big 'gator'!



Ian Baitup's stunning 26lbs spoon caught pike



GUIDED LURE & FLY FISHING DAYS WITH ANDY LUSH

Andy offers a guiding service for those who want to learn more about 'Lure Fishing' and 'Fly Fishing'

LURE FISHING Fish a variety of reservoirs for Pike, Perch and Zander. These days are suitable for beginners and improvers who wish to 'fast track' their way to success. Learn more about lure fishing, the use of boats and fish finders, or just have a FUN day with an experienced Predator angler.

FLY FISHING One of Andy's favourite methods, Trout, Carp or Pike can be targeted.

TROUT Reservoirs or smaller stillwaters in the South East. These days are suitable for beginners or improvers who wish to learn 'how to catch more fish', or just have a FUN day with an experienced fly fisherman.

CARP & PIKE More anglers are looking to find exciting ways of catching their favourite fish. Carp off the top during the summer takes a lot of beating. Pike in the spring and autumn, whatever their size they are a lot of FUN on the fly!

TO BOOK A DAY email: info@thefriendlyfisherman.co.uk with your contact phone number and Andy will call you back and discuss details.



Why is Bewl producing so many big pike?

Having spent a lot of time fishing Bewl over the last few seasons I can speculate why it's hit such a rich vein of form.

There's a combination of factors to consider. Firstly, the water is much clearer than normal for the time of year. Also until very recently the water temperatures hadn't fallen much. There is also a huge population of small baitfish, perch and silver fish for the pike to feed on. There are shoals of roach and bream in several locations around the reservoir. This is why I believe it is necessary to scratch your lures along the bottom hardly daring to lift them more than a few inches off the deck. The pike are so well fed they are rarely hunting for a meal, well that's my excuse anyway.

Secondly, the high water level means there's no immediate need to pump flood water into the reservoir which usually happens around now. This stable environment has given us a window of opportunity which has persisted over the Christmas period. More pike anglers venture out during the holidays and I've always maintained that if enough anglers are fishing enough different spots using a variety of baits and methods, then there's an increased chance of bumping into some pike in places not normally fished.

Til' next month, tight lines

Andy Lush

Sea Informer

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'Visit our page for chat, tips, news and members' catch reports!'

Sheppey Angling

UNIT 5, REGIS BUSINESS PARK, NEW ROAD, SHEERNESS
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Please support your local tackle shop!

January was quite a tough month around the region's coastline, but the good news was that the rays began showing on the Sheppey beaches with a number also being caught at Deal. Apart from that it was whiting and dogfish that dominated catches! If conditions are settled this month and the water clears we can expect the plaice to begin to arrive on the Sussex beaches. Let us hope that this year sees the plaice in numbers similar to last year when some fantastic catches were made! Now is the time to get some 'bling' on those rigs!

At the time of writing the sea temperature is still fairly mild, not that you would want to bathe in it! We currently have 9.5 degrees at Littlehampton, 9.9 degrees at Folkestone and 8.3 degrees at Gillingham. However, I would expect these temperatures to have dropped a little further by the time this issue goes to print. We saw some big tides in January and here at Wouldham on the Medway a couple of tides actually lapped over the wharf wall in the village, however there was no risk to properties that are situated close to the river's edge although I daresay residents were grateful once the tide had turned! Bait diggers have benefited as more beach has been accessible and some lovely bait has been available in the tackle shops.

I always welcome your catch photos and sea reports so please do send them in via email or message on the magazine's Facebook page.



Thames report courtesy of Wayne May

"At Erith, dabs and flounder have been caught taking both lugworm and rag on two and three hook flapper rigs. On a session there recently, after a few missed bites, we dropped down to size 5 hooks, which proved to be better. Sadly, a few days later we fished there again with no bite indication at all and a very quiet day. Gravesend is showing a few whiting and rockling and the odd flatie is being caught fishing closer into the wall, within 20 yards will bring you more success throughout January, changing baits regularly and dropping down in hook size will help. Out along the Thames estuary both shore and boat are producing rays. Fishing can often be quiet at this time of year especially following heavy rainfall. The charter boats are fairing better with reports of rays and dabs and the odd bass of reasonable size being landed."

NJ Fishing Tackle at Gravesend stock fresh (when available) and frozen baits and a good range of tackle. Call 01474 353998.

Sheppey report courtesy of Sheppey Angling

"Good numbers of dabs and flounders reported along the North shore with numbers of rays showing. February should see the whiting numbers thin out as they move offshore. The Swale is also producing dabs, flounders and rays with the odd small bass still present. Worm baits for the flaties and fish baits for the rays." **Call Sheppey Angling on 01795 661089 for all your bait and tackle requirements and top local advice and tips for fishing on the island.**

North Kent report

A few rays now beginning to show from Herne Bay marks, but it is mostly dabs, flounders and whiting making up catches. A few small bass among the flatfish towards Tankerton end. **Absolute Tackle at Herne Common have a great range of fresh (when available) and frozen baits along with a great range of tackle.**

Call 01227 636724.

Thanet report courtesy of Fisherman's Corner

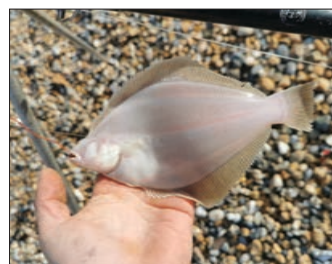
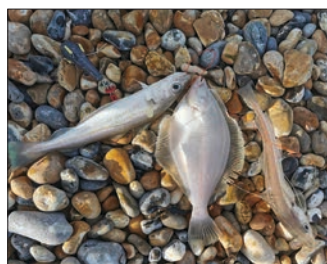
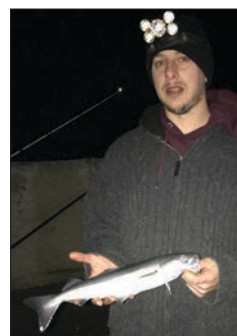
"Ramsgate pier is still producing a few small plaice and dabs. The whiting numbers have now reduced, especially in daylight giving other

fish a chance to get to the baits, there have also been a few rays caught, which is encouraging for this early in the season. **For any information on fishing Thanet please contact us at Fisherman's Corner for the most up to date information on baits and specific venues 01843 582174."**

Deal report

Plenty of whiting and dogfish from the beaches and pier and numbers of thornback rays have been showing on fish baits which is encouraging. Dabs and flounders have been showing towards the Sandwich Bay end with the dabs taking a liking to 'sticky' old lug but the flounders have a preference for ragworm. We should start to see some bass begin to venture closer in during February depending on conditions.

Call Channel Angling Deal on 01304 373104 for all your bait requirements and top local advice.



Dover report

At the time of writing we are still awaiting confirmation on the Admiralty Pier fishing arrangements from DHB. Things are still looking good! Shakespeare beach has produced whiting, dogfish, pouting and a few rays and a few pollack and wrasse from the Hoe.

For all your bait and tackle, please call Craig at Channel Angling on 01304 203742.

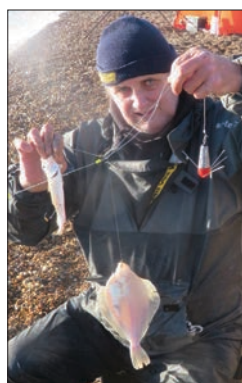
Folkestone report courtesy of Folkestone Angling

"Still plenty of whiting and dogfish from all local marks. The pier is producing dabs, pouting, whiting and dogfish with the odd small bass down the wall. At the time of writing the sea is beginning to clear so this may well encourage the plaice to venture closer inshore in the coming weeks. A couple of local anglers recently lure fished between Folkestone and Sandgate and had a number of bass to 4lbs."

Folkestone Angling is situated at the end of Tontine Street and just a few minutes walk away from the pier. Please remember to purchase your pier tickets from the shop before fishing. Call Folkestone Angling on 01303 253881.

Hythe area report courtesy of Stevie Bates

"December and January can generally be a quiet time of the year on the beaches, the fishing can be slow and the weather can make it challenging. The bay has seen a few good storms to really stir things up, but has also seen its fair share of calm, bright settled days which can make fishing challenging especially for daytime anglers. Dymchurch through to Sandgate has been fishing ok and anglers are catching fish with the bulk of catches being made up of the obligatory whiting and dogfish. Dabs are still showing but more so on the evening/night tides 1-2 hours after high water, 2 hook flappers with sticky worm that is a few days old has been working best with the rods sat low in the stands. The rays seem to have moved offshore, they are not present in the numbers that they have been, the odd ray is still being caught at some of the favourite low water marks but fishing for them in general has been very slow. Pulley pannel and pulley droppers with squid and fish baits are still the favoured set ups and should help you find them if they are there. There have been a couple reports of coalfish being landed which is great to see from along our shoreline, it could be small shoals moving through and the odd fish breaking off but could be a good sign of things to come if catches of these fish increase. The ASSO two day comp at Hythe in early January saw many anglers facing a very challenging



first day with the weather but over the two days there was some good points scored with plenty of fish caught, well-done all who fished. In the coming weeks if it stays settled and clear enough there is a chance of the odd early plaice showing, half a fresh worm on long up and over wishbone rigs work best, so it will worth making sure you have some of your favourite coloured rigs in the box. **Local tackle shops are**

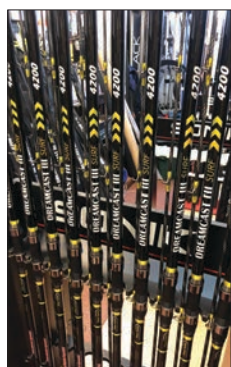
Dens Tackle
01303 267053 and
Best Buddies
01303 487144.

Keep safe, stay well and please remember to take your rubbish home." Tight lines, Stevie.



Eastbourne report courtesy of Tony's Tackle

"Best fish from the last few weeks was a shore caught 18 lbs conger from White Horses during an Anderida fishing match, needles to say the captor Jack Wilshire came first! Arrun Aghilli completed a glorious double winning the Nomads Xmas Open with a massive 1000 pts plus, top angling over 45 fish and all were returned. He followed this by winning the last Nomads competition catching a 3lbs 12 ozs ray on the last cast along with 3 dogfish and 5 whiting. He picked up £180. Match fishing has been excellent with hoardes of whiting and packs of dogs in the rough seas and a few good rays which will increase next month, the rocky areas with shallow water best places for rays, Alice's Pipe at Pevensey or the Wish Tower at Eastbourne. February should see the plaice return to Langney Point, there has already been some good ones caught from Eastbourne Pier, Jason Carter landed one of 1lb 9ozs. The pier will produce plenty of thornbacks rays, dogfish and some big bass. Langney pleasure fishing will produce dabs, plaice and whiting in calm conditions with clear water and dogfish and bass in the rougher seas with coloured water. Infestations of whiting have made it difficult for pleasure anglers to catch any thing else, but this should change next month when the plaice arrive in numbers. Best baits are black lug and ragworm, but don't forget to order you bait as it seems to still be in short supply. **Call Tony on 07821 514853 or 01323 731388.** Eastbourne boats are catching plaice and dabs and some inshore rays, bass and a few cod from the Light Tower area along with a few bull huss which have made a massive comeback during the last year, some congers from the wrecks.



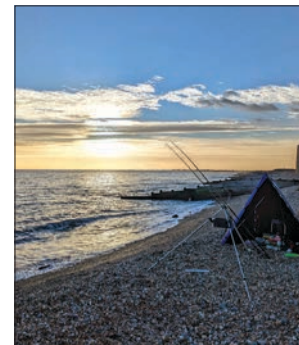
Our new Dreamcast rod is selling well and proving to be great for the average angler, the book has gone through the roof with over 200 copies now sold. See our advert on page 45 or go to our website at www.tonystackle.co.uk

Worthing area report courtesy of Prime Angling

"The weather lately has been fairly decent with plenty of sunshine during the day along with very light winds. If this period of settled weather continues into the next weeks and the sea is still slightly coloured the bigger tides should clear the colour. Lots of anglers at this time of year turn their attention to catching flounders and conditions should be ideal for them with calm seas, improving water clarity and cold temperatures. The River Adur has produced plenty of flounders up to around 40cms and a recent small match fished during the day saw the winner catch 18 flounders in 4 hours. The River Arun has produced good catches of flounders to worm baits although over the next few months early peelers can catch some bigger fish. Once the sea clears out expect flounders to reappear from the beaches as well as Worthing Pier and Shoreham Harbour especially during daylight as there will be less competition from the Whiting.



Photo courtesy of Holly Waterman



THE MAN HIMSELF - TONY KIRRAGE!

South Coast angling legend Tony Kirrage has written a wonderful account of his lifetime's involvement in the world of fishing. Tony's book is a fascinating account of his angling adventures, not just on the beaches and boats of his home county, but across the world. The book has already sold exceptionally well as scores of anglers seize this unique opportunity to look back at



Tony's memories, many of which will stir the reader's memory bank as well!

The book is available from just £25.99 and you can pick up your copy from Tony's Tackle, 211 Seaside Road, Eastbourne BN22 7NP. Alternatively, call the shop to order on 01323 731388 or email tonystackle@mail.com

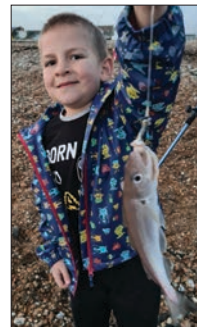
Don't delay, order your copy today as numbers are limited!

continued overleaf

Dabs are showing from Pevensy, Seaford, Eastbourne as well as odd ones from Shoreham. The plaice should begin to show as we head in to February and March as they move inshore in numbers. While the sea has been coloured whiting again have dominated catches and they have been widespread throughout the region. As the water clears out enough they will thin out during the day and instead feed after dark. A few sizeable bass continue to be caught mainly to worm baits along with some very small 'schoolies'. All bass must be returned alive from the period of 1st January to 28th February 2022.



Dogfish have also figured in catches from the majority of spots especially around the Selsey area where it can be a dog or two a cast, every cast. Dogfish will be caught to most worm and fish baits and will be present whilst the water remains dirty. Conger reports have dropped off with the occasional good fish from Pagham and Selsey as well as a few straps caught locally but the cold, calmer weather could see them disappear until Spring. Rays remain a viable target and venues worth trying include Pagham, Selsey as well as Eastbourne. Thornbacks have figured in catches recently and Pagham has seen some large Undulates, reasonable Spotted and Small Eyed Rays caught and similar results can be achieved from Selsey when not plagued by dogfish or straps. Worthing Pier opens daily 6am till 10pm. Contact Worthing Beach office for any information you require regarding any rules and regulations that is applicable to fishing on the pier. The Landing Stage on the Pier is currently being repaired and is expected to remain for next couple of months until repairs are completed. **Prime Angling's opening hours are 8am till 5pm Monday to Saturday and Sunday 8am - 4pm. Please remember the shop needs to comply with the latest Covid rulings so at present masks must be worn inside the shop. We are located at 26 Marine Parade, Worthing, BN11 3PT, situated just to the east of Worthing Pier with limited customer parking available at the front of the shop. If you require fresh bait it is advisable to phone us on 01903 821594 to pre order depending on availability and as early as possible to avoid disappointment.** We also stock a large variety of frozen sea baits. Also as the seasons change plenty of new stock is arriving so pop in or keep an eye on our Facebook page.



THE RAYS HAVE ARRIVED AT SHEPPEY!



James Clifton sent in this report after a successful trip to Sheppey with dad Graham when they found their first rays of 2022:

"I had a session over the Island with my dad Graham last recently and managed a few rays. We had five and dropped a couple on the way in. Decent first sea session of the year!"
James Clifton



HASTINGS report courtesy of Hastings Angling Centre

Not a great deal to report on for the last few weeks, poor weather has greatly limited fishing both on the beach and from the boats. On the beach the catches have been mainly whiting, dabs and dogfish and for the boats pollack in limited numbers, whiting and dogfish with a few rays and gurnard. The black bream appear to have gone now. The herring and sprats seem abundant at times and very likely all the bigger fish are up in the water chasing them which makes targeting them very difficult.

Prospect for February: the pollack should start to collect on the large deep offshore wrecks ready for spawning in March. After all the good feeding on sprats and herring they should be in prime condition with every chance of some big fish. On the beach whiting, dabs and dogfish and of course the rockling will doubtless show up in numbers. February and March are usually the hardest months on the beach. Don't forget the bass are out of season until March!

HASTINGS & ST LEONARDS AA BLACK CAT CHARITY MATCH

This match was held on Boxing Day so missed the deadline for the January magazine. An extremely wet day kept a few indoors, but for those who ventured out they had a few whiting and dabs although many were undersized. Winner of The Black cat Trophy went to Ralph Crosby with 13 fish weighing 4lbs 3ozs. A big well done to those who also supported the raffle as well as the fishing by raising £223 for Charity!

- 1st **Ralph Crosby** 4lbs 3ozs
- 2nd **Gary Apps** 1lb 8ozs
- 3rd **David Checksfield** 1lb 7ozs
- 4th **Nick May** 1lb 5ozs
- 5th **Jasmine Copeland** 1lb 3ozs
- 6th **Daniel Winch** 15.2oz
- 7th **Kieran Copeland** 15ozs



Winner - Ralph Crosby

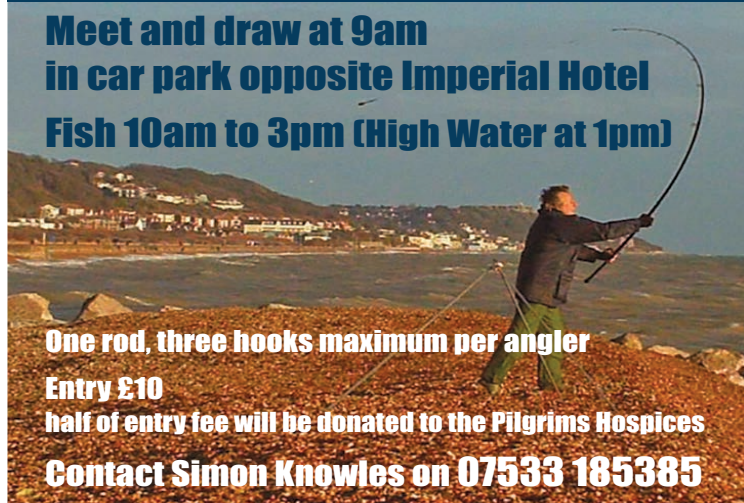
Charity Open Match at Hythe

in aid of 

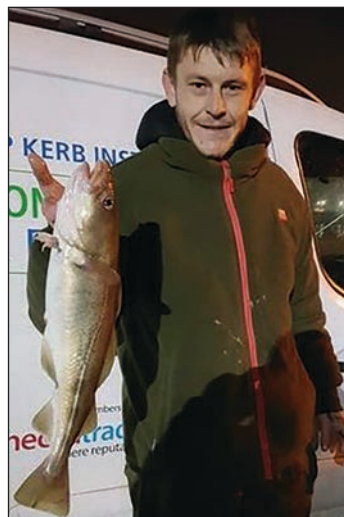
SUNDAY 6TH MARCH 2022

Meet and draw at 9am
in car park opposite Imperial Hotel
Fish 10am to 3pm (High Water at 1pm)

One rod, three hooks maximum per angler
Entry £10
half of entry fee will be donated to the Pilgrims Hospices
Contact Simon Knowles on 07533 185385



MICHAEL GETS HIS REWARD!



Michael Sillick was overjoyed to send in this catch report and quite rightly too! After spending many hours in pursuit of a cod from a local beach, he was finally rewarded for his efforts:

"Hi Barry I know it's not freshwater, but I've been trying for a local cod every winter now for 5 year solid and last night was my night! The time I've spent digging, pumping and fishing for this cod is unreal but it paid off and I'm over the moon, location was in Kent. Regards, Michael"

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Sussex angling legend Tony Kirrage has written this lovely book looking back at his lifetime's involvement in fishing. It is a fascinating glimpse into the contribution that Tony has made to the world of angling! A MUST read for any angler!

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211 Seaside Eastbourne BN22 7NP

DUNGENESS by Tony HillsLatest catch reports on www.seagullfishingtackle.com

In the dark days of winter and the weather is all over the place will February be normal? As I write this not many dabs being reported. I expect the matchmans' favourite five bearded rockling (slugs) to start showing soon. More and more dogfish are about and our new 'flat' codling (thornback rays) are starting to show in good numbers. There is still time to catch a real codling!

BEACH REPORT

It has been an amazing month with even the odd mackerel chasing something in the surf. Sea temperatures are still just above eight degrees, I can't see it getting a lot colder unless we get some bad weather as the days start to lengthen. I see plenty of 'chatter' on social media concerning 'unicorns' but people, if you don't go you won't know!

**Report from Mark Steventon**

I had this report in from my mate Mark Steventon who went fishing at Dungeness last night...

"Hi Tony. Me and Terry fished by the life boat at Dungie last nite, lots of doggies." ...and for those 'newbies' here is a photo of a dogfish...learn to love them!

Would you 'Adam & Eve' it?

I saw this report from Simon Newman:

"Unbelievable!!!! I walked Fleur on the beach behind the boats at Dungeness this morning. Something flapping caught my eye. A live mackerel had been stranded on the shingle after chasing I presume sprats (lots of sea birds feeding yards off shore today). The water's too coloured to fish for them, but I reckon you'd have fun with a throw net!"

It's warm, sea temperature 10 degrees, air temperature 12!

**Plenty of fish out there! I saw this report from Alex Veel:**

"Fished behind the boats at Dungie this morning hoping for bass, but expecting whiting and dogfish. Thick with fish from start to finish, even managing 2 dogs and a whiting on the one pennel rig...twice!"

BEACH OUTLOOK FOR FEBRUARY It depends on the weather, but the sea at the moment is just over 8 degrees, and with the lengthening days it will need some seriously cold weather to drive it down further. When I think of February I expect dabs, flounders and the matchman's favourite, the five beard rockling (slugs), not bass and mackerel...but you never know!

BEST BAITS You can't go wrong with lugworm fresh or frozen both catch tipped with a bit of shell fish...ideal!

BOAT REPORT Well it's like throwing a switch, Spring species are showing already with some cracking pollack on the mid channel wrecks.

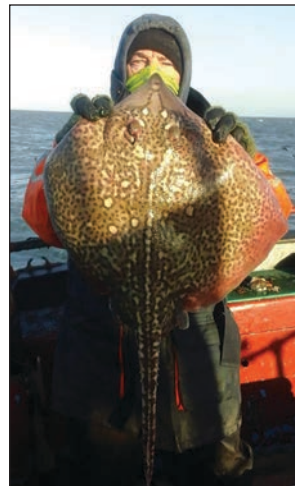
A nice start to the year! I saw this report posted last night by Jem Oiller:

"Fairchance fishing Dungeness 01797 363544 Today. Dave Foggy Robinson, braved the cold arctic conditions today, managed 2 or 3 thornbacks, a small conger and too many dogfish. The skate fell to lug and squid, not a bite on the fish baits and we had them all. Not a cloud in the sky all day! Happy Days.

**13 is lucky for some!**

I saw this report from Jem Oiller posted last night...

"Fairchance fishing Dungeness 01797 363544 Today, A chilly start early this morning for Dan, Ben and Foggy Robinson. Target species thornback rays, the first one took only 15 minutes to boat for Ben, then a steady trickle through the ebb tide, 13 in all. Dan boated a blonde ray just over 12 lbs, Foggy had a couple of small congeners, 1 or 2 good whiting and plenty of dogfish! A BEAUTIFUL day to be afloat. Happy Days."

**And the sun came out!**

What a great day, flat calm and sunny, here is a report from Anthony out on Peganina (07989778361) from Rye:

"So finally managed the first trip of the year today, as normal it weren't easy but did manage a good few fish in the end, here's Deano with best pollack of the day!! "





BOAT OUTLOOK FOR FEBRUARY As I write this the weather is great! Will February be kind? The fish are out there!

BEST BAITS When it comes to wrecking, its all about hard baits, but they have to swim right, I'm told 'sidewinders' are best.

Another lovely day. I saw this report from Jem Oiller posted yesterday...

"Fairchance fishing Dungeness 01797 363544 Today. A beautiful day on the water today, tried the Gills for the first time this year. Water clarity was perfect for angler Dan P, one or two pollack nothing big, around the 4lbs mark, twenty or so tub gurnard, jumbo mackerel, large whiting and a few big pout and for the last hour we squid jigged, resulting in 3 or 4 good Squid. Sunshine all day Happy Days."

Looks like Summer!

I saw this posted by Anthony!
"Mackerel are in boys"



A Passion for Thornback Rays!

by Richard Smith

For the past ten years I have targeted this species of fish which I have always found to be mesmerising. I never get bored of seeing these almost prehistoric creatures, each of them appearing to have their own unique, although similar markings. Some are darker, lighter, more mottled, some have more thorns than others and in different places.

I have targeted these fish around the Kent and Sussex coastlines, and have found that different venues can produce them at different states of the tides and weather conditions. As they swim in what I thought was a 'herd', but in fact is called a 'fever', I find that once I have caught one, I am more than likely to catch another, and sometimes another. I have noticed, from personal experience about ten years ago, the rays used to be only around at particular times of the year, usually the summer months, but recently they seem to be around most of the year, probably because of the changes in our climate, who knows what knock-on effects that will make.



My preference for the rig that I generally use is a pulley rig with a size 3/0 or 4/0 hook and depending on the venue I use a 5ozs or 6ozs gripper lead. I like using 70lbs line for both the rig body and the hook length. The bait I like using for ray fishing, is Bluey fish, although I have found them to take other fish baits too, like Mackerel, Herring, Squid and I have even known them to take lugworm. By presenting the bait neat and tidy I have found this has helped with my casting at range, as it assists in making the cast more streamlined. The casting range will vary depending on where the gullies or feeding grounds are.

These beauties are ground grazers and can eat all sorts of bait including shellfish and crustaceans, they can do this as they have an amazing set of crushing plates in their relatively small mouths. As they are scouring the sea floor, I reckon it must be the oily scent trail that attracts the rays to take the Bluey fish bait, which has led to many a successful catch.

There is something special in the way a ray takes the bait, so many times I have stood in anticipation, waiting for that moment. I stare straight down my illuminated rod tip with bated breath, trying to differentiate between wind and the subtle movements that these stunning creatures make when they are playing with the bait.

I love the way they can be so unpredictable, as sometimes they take the bait and run, causing a slack line bite, sometimes they lay over the top of the bait with very little movement of your rod tip or they pull the rod tip right down in one aggressive move. I would wait patiently for the moment to strike.

When reeling in Thornback Rays I can normally tell that I have achieved my target species, as it is like pulling in a heavy weight with an occasional hard tug, then when they come to the surface, and I can see them gliding in, it's such a sight and always brings a smile to my face and no matter how many I catch I am always excited to see what this next one looks like.

Once the Ray has come to the water's edge it is imperative that the Ray is handled correctly. I have had my fair share of thorn injuries over the years and have found the best way to handle them is by holding them either side of the nose area. Never pick them up by its tail, may sound obvious, but I have heard of people not handling them properly, and as such beauties, they need to be treated with respect and ensure they are not harmed.

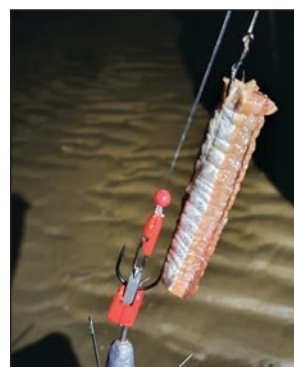


The thorns that they have are the only armour against predators and are very sharp and normally run along the tail and the middle part of the fish and dotted around the wings. I inspect the Ray when I have got it out of the water, obviously take a pic or two, and take note of its marble markings, the way its wings flutter and the way its mouth moves. I unhook a Thornback Ray using a pistol grip disgorging, to avoid harm to the fish and myself. They are slow growing, so I take great care in looking after this fantastic species and put them back in the safest way possible. I lower them down on to the surface of the water at the water's edge, ensuring I am far enough into the water to enable them to swim away freely from the shoreline back to sea. I hold them still, long enough to know they are happy to swim away, and I watch them swim as far as I can, flapping their wings, almost bird like.

I can never get over how stunning these creatures are, each time I catch a thornback ray I take the time to appreciate its individual beauty... its true, I have a passion for Thornback Rays!

Tight lines, Richard Smith

**Salty
Hooks
Fishing
UK**



OUT AND ABOUT WITH ANDY by Andrew Cook

A long journey but thoroughly enjoyable!

To be honest after last week's total disaster, I would have gone anywhere where I could just get a line in the water and have a chance of catching, but after some debate Richard Steel, Simon Church, Paul Hunter and I settled on a crack at Selsey East Beach. There's been a few Undulates about and there's a chance of a half decent Conger.



Paul and I are on the mark at 2:30pm after a traffic free and quite enjoyable 97 mile trip which includes using the A29. Some nice scenery if you take this route. We have picked a location just off the point as there are quite a few trawlers moored and marker buoys close in further East. The water is virtually flat calm with little wind, green with a hint of colour.

It looks like there's the possibility of a flatfish or two so one rod goes out with a flapper and frozen blacks while the other has a pulley rig and whole squid. Apart from a few tiny rattles there's nothing doing so, at sunset, I changed the flapper over for another mackerel loaded pulley rig. We then get a visit from what looks

like a juvenile and rather exhausted type of sea bird. I try and feed it some mackerel, but it's more concerned about our presence so swims off. I've tried to identify it, but the nearest I can get is a Razorbill or a Guillemot which doesn't seem right.

Darkness descends and the tidal flood starts in earnest. This is the cue for the whiting to arrive. Fortunately, they aren't in plague proportions, Paul and I have around half a dozen in an hour or so. Richard and Si arrive, they both have a couple straight away, then they (the whiting!) are gone for the night which I am quite pleased about. My first 'proper' bite arrives, a series of small nods which results in a strap conger of a couple of pounds. Paul also gets one and I get another, but other than that it's reasonably quiet.

Then the tide run starts, and when I say 'start' I mean an absolute rush as millions of tonnes of water makes its way West to fill up Portsmouth Harbour. It's huge with six ounce leads not holding bottom at all. I tried my best to get a lead to settle, but it's impossible, this is only a small tide so God knows what it's like on a big spring. In the end we are putting baits 40 yards out and only just holding bottom.



The wind strengthens slightly and shifts to Easterly which puts a little chop on the water and provides a small amount of surf. I'm talking to Richard when I hear shouting, which I can't understand. I turn to look at Paul in the distance and he's blurring something at us and has a fair old bend in one of his rods. Just as I get to him he's beaching a fantastic bass. The pictures don't do this fish justice, but it's one of the best looking fish I've ever seen, short but very fat and in amazing condition. Unhooked, weighed at 5lbs 4ozs, and photographed and I offer to return it as I have waders on and it may take a minute to recover. We needn't have worried because as soon as it feels the water it swishes its tail and is gone like a shot. Very well done mate and made the trip worth it!

It goes dead

over HW and just after 10pm, Richard and Si call it a day. Paul and I agree to stay a while. The reason being all the marks I've fished with big tide runs tend to 'switch on' as it eases. This view is proved in some form as the minute the run eases Paul has another strap conger.

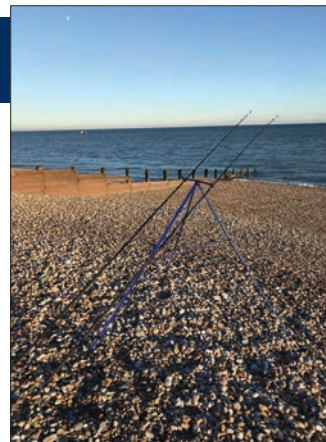
At 11:20 I am comfortably holding bottom at distance, my thoughts turn to the journey home, then I see one of my rod tips start to repeatedly nod with increasing vigour and my line is heading East against what current is still present. I lift the rod, lean into it and am met with a series of head shakes. This feels very decent as I slowly manage to gain about 20 yards of line. I call Paul who runs along the beach to where I am. Everything then seizes up. I can feel the fish

pulling but nothing is moving. I give it some slack, but it's still stuck fast. Paul has a feel of the fish through the rod as well but it isn't moving. This goes on for ten minutes trying different ways to dislodge the fish but in the end I have to pull through it and end up on my a**e with nothing but a snapped leader! Gutted, but it wasn't shifting. Possibly a decent conger that managed to get itself wrapped round a snag.

Losing that fish eradicated any enthusiasm I had for staying longer so at midnight we call it a day for the drive home. I had a little 'event' coming back across the A228! I hit a wall of fog around a bend. It came from nowhere and in a split second I can't even see what side of the road I'm on. I steer to the left just in time to see an articulated lorry go past me in the opposite direction. 'Squeaky bum time' I can tell you!

A little about the mark for anyone thinking of having a go. Free parking on Kingsway, as well as the roads off Grafton Road. Avoid the first bay East of the point as it's snaggy with two huge lumps of iron sticking up bang in the middle. As we found out, be prepared to fish closer in during the tide run, or be using 8 ounces of lead. There's plenty of local shops including a chippy close to the sea front, also toilets by the lifeboat station.

Not my best of sessions, but I enjoyed the mark and am happy for Paul and his PB Bass. Good luck if you are out over the weekend!



Tight lines all! Andy Cook

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KENT BOAT REPORT

by Jason Parrott



New Year and new hope for some new PBs and some fish of a lifetime!



The weather out on the boat is very unsettled but we are getting some better days to get off and have a look. The skate seem to be moving in slowly and the signs are good. A lot of pouches are on the beach at Sandwich so they are out there! It is usually at this time of the year when they get right in close to drop their pouches. We often fish in just 10ft of water at times to get them and they seem to prefer the calmer westerly conditions and as per normal preferred bait is bluey, mackerel, herring and squid and lug cocktails. Some fish will get up to 16 - 18 lbs. We like to put the females back at this point for breeding and protecting future stocks. Rigs are running leger or uptide pulley or just a normal bolt rig with 40lbs hook line 6/0 or 4/0 Koike wide mouth hooks. We fish for these when the tide starts and when the dabs and the tide ease, they do seem to be in the same spots at this time of year.

Recently we have had some nice size dabs up to 1 lb with plenty of smaller ones which keep you going. We swap rigs over to over to long booms with 2 hooks coming off which seems to stop a few of the whiting, we also add some bling on the 15lbs hook lengths with hooks no bigger than 1/0, hooks can go smaller but watch out for those dogfish. Wishbone rigs also work well on a running leger and I have just started using small Tronix pro booms, you just crimp on to the main line, two up the line, one just off the bottom with the weight. Hook lengths of about 1.5 feet with beads and a 1/0 hook again.

The whiting are thinning out, but still good fun and around in good numbers. The sprats are in big shoals when the weather is calm so the food source seems to be up in the water which helps to get rid of some whittings. Whiting rigs are the same as I use for dabs, 3 hook flapper with 2 beads on each hook length, very good fun for all anglers especially the younger or newer angler, go light and enjoy. There is some light at the end of the tunnel with spurdogs. We need them to turn up in numbers and it will be nice to see a proper bend in the rods and you need to hang on as they give good darting runs. Best method is uptiding with pulley rigs or a running leger, but I do like a bolt rig with a 2 ft hook length with 4/0 Koike hook. A spurdog's mouth is quite small, but you do need strong hooks and at least 50 lbs hook line as the mouth will chaff the line.



Fish up to 20 lbs can be caught and as these fish aren't targeted by commercial fisherman the numbers are going up. I believe pound for pound they are the best fighting fish! My preferred rods for these are 20 lbs to 30lbs class with 30 lbs line and a leader of 70 lbs for handling the fish. Always be very careful when a fish comes onboard as they have a nasty spur in front of the dorsal fin! It's solid, so keep fingers away and even boots, they will thrash around so a quick picture and release these wonderful creatures.

We have had a lot of very small bass recently. I believe these fish don't migrate now the water temperature remains around 10 degrees, it used to drop away to 4 or 6 degrees. The bigger fish move off that's for sure, but these seem quite hardy fish and don't mind the winter water, they are in perfect condition and their bellies are bulging and it is so nice to see that the future bass are thriving. We had a small smoothound recently which is a first for us at this time of year. It was caught on a yellow tail worm pumped by me which put a smile on my face, maybe they are trying to be early so the hard fishing could be short lived!

Thanks for all the support onboard Lady Ann of Ramsgate and being patient with us trying to find you better fish which we will prevail in doing through the summer months. We are still taking bookings through the weeks ahead as the boat is full time now!

Tight lines from me and Dawn!

If you fancy a great day out on Lady Ann of Ramsgate, please call Jason on 07966 273650

Coarse Fisheries

Beaver Farm Fishery Eastbourne Road Newchapel, Lingfield RH7 6HL	01342 324006 / 07710 656041
Charlies Lakes Steeds Lane, Kingsnorth, Ashford TN26 1NH	07857 539785
Chequertree Trout and Coarse Fishery Bethersden, Near Ashford TN26 3JR	01233 820078
Coombewood Fishery , Redbrook Street High Halden, Near Ashford TN26 3JH	07895 679569
Elphicks Fisheries Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden TN12 8EL	01580 212512
Eureka Fishery Nicholas Road Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN25 4AG	07597 879621
Frant Lakes Hawkenbury Road Bells Yew Green, Tunbridge Wells TN3 9AP	01892 616424
Furnace Brook Fishery and Fish Farm Trolliloes, Cowbeech, near Hailsham BN27 4QR	01435 830835
Gabriels Fishery Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP	07730 066088
Greenacres Farm Fishery Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden TN27 8EH	07933 934942
Hartley Lands Fishery Swattenden Lane, Cranbrook TN17 3PS	07703 825064
Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	01580 753813
Horam Manor Fishery Horam Manor Farm Horam TN21 0JB	01323 840889 / 07707 759364
Iden Wood Fishery , Coldharbour Lane Iden, Rye TN31 7UT	01797 280180 / 07906 232225
Knightingales Fishery Stone-In-Oxney, Near Tenterden TN30 7HA	07941 176205
Kube Lakes 65-87 Plurenden Road, High Halden, Ashford TN26 3JW (nearest postcode) @KubeLakes on Facebook	07742 423681
Latchetts Lakes Tanyard Lane Furners Green, Uckfield TN22 3RL	07517 646299 / 07793 654174
Mousehole Lakes Maidstone Road Nettlestead, Near Paddock Wood ME18 5HR	07725 783405
Orchard Place Farm Fishery Pearsons Green Road Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6NY	01892 838576
Sandwich Lakes Coarse Fishery Sandwich Ash Road (A257) Near Canterbury CT3 2DA	07936 409912
Shirkoak Fishery Bethersden Road, Woodchurch, Ashford TN26 3PZ	07973 410973
The Lakes at Beachborough Beachborough Park Newington, Near Folkestone CT18 8BW	07469 809877
Tricklebrook Fishery Colts Hill, Five Oak Green TN12 6SH	07743 955812
Wylands Farm Wylands Farm, Powdermill Lane, Battle TN33 0SU	01424 893394

Trout Fisheries

Brick Farm Lakes Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux BN27 4RS	01323 832615
Cinder Hill Fly Fishing Membership available from: Email: r.nathan@btinternet.com	01892 770903
Coltsford Mill Trout Fishery & Fly Tackle shop Mill Lane, Oxted, Surrey RH8 9DG	01883 715666 or 07798 605867
Spring Hill Trout Waters Albans Farm, Romford Road, Pembury TN2 4BB	07951 304515
Tenterden Trout Waters Coombe Farm Chennell Park Road, Tenterden TN30 6XA	01580 763201

Tackle & Bait Supplies

Absolute Tackle 12 Wealden Forest Park Herne Common, Kent CT6 7LQ	01227 636724 / 07809 330854
Angling Specialist (ASH) 29 Queen Street, Horsham RH13 5AA	01403 264644
A.R. Tackle 8 Castle Street, Hastings TN34 3DY	01424 422094

Arun Angling Centre The Old Blacksmiths Yard Water Lane, Angmering BN16 4EP	01903 770099
Bodle Angling Cuckfield Road, Burgess Hill RH15 8RE	01444 247757
Camos Carp Cabin 11 Turner Street, Ramsgate CT11 8NJ	01843 581784
Crowborough Tackle Shop 2, Lexden Lodge Crowborough Hill, Crowborough TN6 2EG	01892 667671
Dens Tackle 73 Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6JN	01303 267053
Eastbourne Aquarium & Reptile Centre 19-21 Seaside, Eastbourne BN21 3PP	01323 730635
Gabriels Fishery Tackle Shop Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 5PP	07730 066088
Henfold Bait & Tackle Henfold Lakes Henfold Lane, Newdigate, Dorking RH5 4RW	07956 043922
Jack Frost Reynolds Place, West Green, Crawley RH11 7HB	01293 521186
Just Fishing Tackle 22 Marion Crescent, Orpington BR5 2DD	01689 637477
Kent Tackle Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	01580 754422
Medway Tackle Supplies 11 Twydall Green, Gillingham ME8 6JY	01634 475260
NJ Tackle 150 Milton Road, Gravesend DA12 2RG	01474 353998
Orchard Tackle 58 High Brooms Road Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9DB	07494 670328
Polegate Angling Centre Unit 7 Birch Industrial Estate, Eastbourne BN23 6PH	01323 486379
Romney Angling 59 High Street, New Romney TN28 8AH	01797 362889
Sheppey Angling Unit 5, Regis Business Park New Road, Sheerness, Kent ME12 1HA	01795 661089
Shorties Tackle Unit 16 The Glenmore Centre, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3FH	07563 620368
South London Angling Centre 286 Lee High Road, London SE13 5PJ	0208 852 4451
Sues Tackle Cabin The Spice Warehouse Rye Harbour Road, Rye TN31 7TE	01797 225015 / 07980 290247
Tony's Tackle Shop 211 Seaside Road, Eastbourne BN22 7NP	01323 731388
Trade In Tackle Maidstone Road Wateringbury ME18 5EH	01622 814296 / 07941 085011

Angling Clubs & Societies

Bromley (Kent) & District AS PO Box 895, East Grinstead RH19 9ND email: bdas-kent-enquiry@bdaskent.co.uk	
Cinder Hill Fly Fishing Membership available from email: r.nathan@btinternet.com	01892 770903
Fly Dressers Guild (Sussex Branch) New members welcome Contact Simon	07799 484166
Hastings Bexhill & District Postal enquiries to: S.Corke 2 The Sidings, Bexhill On Sea TN40 1RF Chris Pagan	07429 655237 / Steve Potter 07935 268174
Linton Angling Society Jason Tuckey on or email: lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk	07983 569220
North Sussex Piscatorials email:northsussexpiscatorials@gmail.com Parish Lane, Pease Pottage, Sussex RH10 5NY	07824 443720
Tonbridge & District A & FPS PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB	Martyn 07802 248802
Wantsum Angling Association or contact via website www.wantsumaa.co.uk	01227 678063

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7 days : £175	
Exclusive Hire up to 6 anglers for 48 hours : £450	

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24 hours : £35	72 hours : £95
36 hours : £50	84 hours : £110
48 hours : £65	96 hours : £125
5 days : £140	6 days : £155
7 days : £170	
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