

# Freshwater Informer

299th Edition



**Back  
to our  
roots....!**

The **FREE** Publication for Freshwater Anglers in the South-East

April 2022

**Peter Thomason  
9lbs 2ozs  
Brick Farm Lakes**



Sandwich  
Coarse Fishery

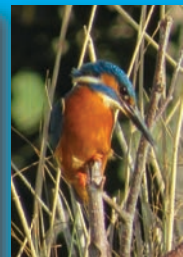
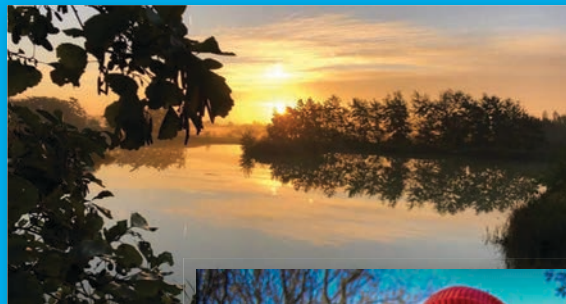


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## *Some important changes to your Freshwater Informer magazine!*

### **H**ello and welcome to the April issue of the Freshwater Informer!

After an unsettled early March, our weather has begun to settle and become a little more Spring like which has been most welcome. Unfortunately, the rivers were high and very coloured at the start of March and only really fined down a week or so prior to the end of the season, typical!

Since the last issue of the magazine the world has gone rather crazy! The awful situation in Eastern Europe has had a ripple effect right through our very fabric of life and has avoided no one with its impact. We should consider ourselves fortunate in that we are 'only' moaning about the ever rising prices of simply everything we use or need and are not living in the war zone.

Unfortunately, the Freshwater Informer has also been dramatically affected by the current events. I work closely with my printers, the Wealden Group at Hawkhurst, and they are being hit with massive increases in the price of paper. Indeed, paper has become difficult to source at times! It seems that many paper producing companies have switched over to producing cardboard for Amazon!

So, what are the effects on the Freshwater Informer? The printers advised me that my print costs would rise by 30% each month. This is a massive hike for a free magazine that relies on advertising revenue as its sole income. If there was a cover charge, it would simply mean adding another 50p to the cost of the magazine. However, I do not have that option. The past couple of weeks have involved a lot of head scratching, calculations, meetings, phone calls, bouncing ideas off friends and family etc not to mention one or two nights where I would be up at 3am and sitting with my pen and paper trying to find a magical solution!

The result is fairly radical due to the amount of factors that needed to be considered. I did not want to pass on hefty advertising price increases to the magazine advertisers who are also under tight financial pressure. I looked again at the magazine content and the various sections and the advertising revenue each raises. The Sea Informer section has grown considerably over the past three years and requires between 8-10 pages per month to accommodate the reports and articles etc. However, the income from that section does not raise sufficient revenue to cover the production costs and so is subsidised by the other parts of the magazine. So, due to this imbalance, I have decided to remove the Sea Informer from the magazine and concentrate on the coarse, carp and trout content, in effect, the magazine is returning to its roots and where it all started way back in 1996! The saving from not having the sea content will 'pay' for the increased print cost.

I feel the above measures are the best compromise considering all the relevant factors involved and by taking this way forward it does not involve hefty price hikes for my advertisers yet still provides you, the reader, with all your favourite reading for FREE each month.

*Enjoy your fishing! Barry Reed*

### **The Freshwater Informer**

6 Meadow Way | Wouldham | Rochester ME1 3GR

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**COPY DEADLINE for MAY 2022**

**MONDAY 18th April 2022 at 5pm**

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Steve - 20lbs from Old Lake



Steve ...another 20lbs - Old Lake



Steve - 22lb 8oz 12/3/22

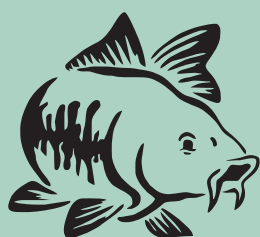


Steve - 22lb Old Lake 12/3/22

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## Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

As we write this report for the past months catches, the weathermen are giving us four days of sunshine and a heady 15 degrees! With the small amounts of sun we've had to date the fish are quickly responding to it by warming themselves up after another cold winter, ready to start feeding before spawning time once again. The Storm Eunice clear up is going well, with five of our lakes now completely fishable. Daughters has swims 1 & 2 shut due to a tree in the lake and Majors also has two swims shut due to a tree in the lake and we are currently working on this lake giving it an after winter tidy up. Maze has a couple of swims fishable, but as yet we haven't started to tidy up the branches and fallen trees.

**Snipe Lake** fished well over the past month, with both Originals and Stockies gracing the bank. Well done to the following anglers on banking themselves a fish or two. **Scott Carter** had a great birthday session, landing Mirrors of 21-00, 24-00 and the Queen of the lake, Hayley's Mirror at a healthy 37-00. **Sam Sutton** managed the 'High Back' Mirror at 27-08. First timer on Snipe, **Grant Simmons**, banked two Mirrors at 25-08 & 28-00. **Ian York** kept his run going by netting a 20-10 Common and a new PB with a 25-00 Mirror. **Ed Rayner** landed the biggest Common of the year so far with the 'Golden Common' at 32-00. **Jack Beer** banked a 23-08 Mirror. **Tony Rogers** had a 20-01 Mirror on a day session. **Al Randall** landed the 'Black Scar' Mirror at 26-01. **Micky Lowe** had his first Snipe Carp, with two Mirrors weighing in at 22-00 & 23-01. **Mickey Sugrue** managed a 23-08 Mirror on his first visit to us. **Gerry Fowler** netted a 22-08 Mirror. **Gavin Bryant** had a blinding overnight session by banking 3 fish, all Mirror's at 20-03, 21-00 & 23-00. **Mick Box** got off the mark for 2022 with a 22-02 Mirror. **Liam Hall** was back after nearly a year away and managed a 15-02 Common and a scaley 19-08 Mirror. Last of all

**Christian Strebinger** banked his first Snipe Carp with the 'Big Lin' at 25-14. **Westlake** Being a deep lake, Westlake takes a bit longer to start warming up so the Cats can still be hard going at this time of year. Recently, there was a 48 hour window where it looked like they had started to wake up as a couple of anglers got lucky by banking a few fish. **Pete Ellis** got up and running for the year with a 47-00. **Mark Slade** set the bar high when he banked 4 fish including a 55-08 & a 72-11. **Darren Evens** landed a 41-00. Also a few doubles and 20's were landed before the feeding spell stopped.



Mark Slade - 72lb 11oz



Pete Ellis - 47lb

**Jeffs Lake** is the most consistent pond on the complex being that it's fished throughout the winter. Plenty of F1's and Bream being banked on method feeder tactics. Pole and maggot fishing is producing non stop smaller Skimmers, Roach, Perch and Gudgeon. One of the best days reported was by **Dave Horsley** landing 23 fish, mainly F1 Carp and a couple of decent Bream.

**Moat Pond** Moat Pond hasn't seen many anglers over the past month, which in turn has made the fishing a bit hit and miss. Small Carp are being caught, along with Bream and Silvers. Most anglers are banking two or three carp, with a couple having really good days. The best report was from **Jason Hills** who managed 12 Carp, 2 F1's and a Bream in an afternoon's fishing.

**Daughters Lake** is always tough going, not being helped by the lack of anglers giving it a go and bait being applied. We have already started dying the water to try and inhibit the algae growth. With the new oxygenation system working each night, the oxygen levels will hopefully be a bit more stable throughout the coming Spring and Summer.

**Richard Wetton** decided to give it ago and banked a 12-08 Common. **Darren Giffen** had a great 24hrs, landing Mirrors of 11-10 & 14-02 plus a PB 25lb+ Grass Carp. **Craig Clayton** was happy he fished a day session when he managed a 15-08 Common and a new lake record Grass Carp at 26-02 which saw him win our Fish of the Month competition for February.

**Eden Pond** through the colder months no one fishes Eden Pond, with anglers waiting for Spring and Tench time. The first angler on there this year was **Jacob Pierce** and he had one bite and landed a nice 5-09 Tench.

**Nigel Barrow** gave it proper go and

timed it just right, banking 11 Tench, several decent Perch and a couple of Bream.

**Maze Lake** As we said at the start of this report, we haven't started to tidy up the storm mess on Maze Lake yet so very few anglers have fished it over the last month. Those that have, have been catching Bream, F1's and the odd small Carp. The best reported to us was again from **Dave Horsley** who banked 12 F1's, 3 small Carp a 6 decent Bream.



Gareth Osmond - 16lb 8oz

**Majors Lake** has started to wake up over the past few weeks with Bream to

7-08, Carp to 22-08 and even a couple of Tench to 4-06. **Terry Edwards** has continued his mini campaign on there fishing days and managing 6 Carp between 8-00 and 12-08, plus a bonus 12-08 Pike on a pop up. **Colin Spires** netted his first Carp of 2022 with a 14-08 Ghost Common. **Luke Pickett** nicked a 10-04 Mirror on a very short stalking session. **Craig Clayton** gave Majors a go for a change and banked a small Common and 5 decent Bream. The Pike season has been very tough again this year, so **Gareth Osmond** was happy with a 16-08 and **Norman Epps** surprised himself when he banked a 6-06, 12-06 & 12-09 Pike in a busy morning session.

**Well done to all the above anglers and please send in your catches from any of our lakes and ponds via Whatsapp on 07710 656041. Tight Lines!**



Al Randall - 26lb 1oz



Christian Strebinger - 25lb 14oz



Gavin Bryant - 21lb



Ed Rayner - 32lb



Scott Carter - 37lb



Craig Clayton - 26lb 2oz



Colin Spires - 14lb 8oz



Luke Pickett - 10lb 4oz





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We have been making some changes over the winter.



### Admiral Lake

has been extended and also now has hard standing swims installed and more being installed. Keep your eyes peeled for more exciting news regarding Admiral Lake coming soon!

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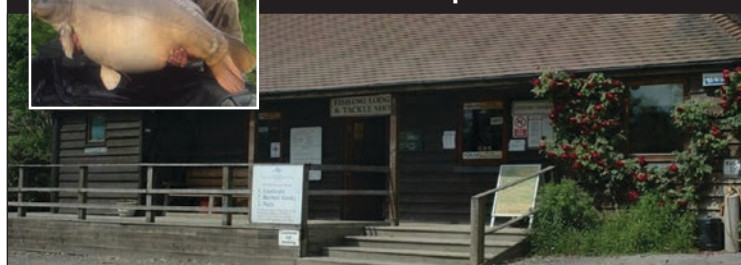
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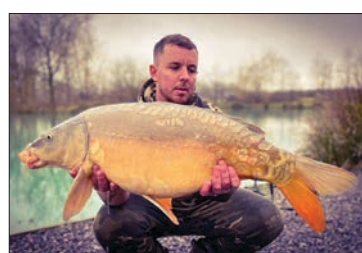
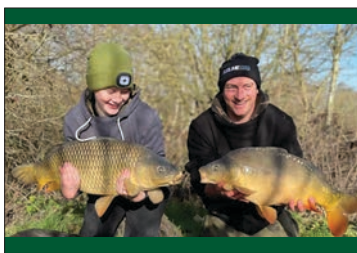
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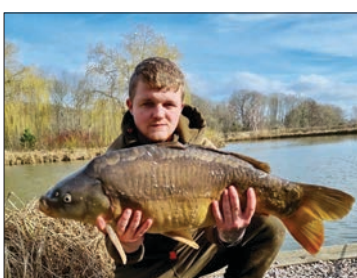
## Hartley Lands Fishery Cranbrook, Kent



## Elphicks Fisheries Horsmonden, Kent



Ryan Wakely - 35lb 8oz Pullens Lake



Kettles Lake



Alec Shipley 42-8 Westend Lake



Bernie Green - 33lbs North Lake



Lloyd Anderson - Prairie Lake



Jae - 32lb 8oz Pullens Lake



Samuel Hesmer - 41lb 8oz Pullens Lake



Paul Matthews - 32lb 8oz North Lake



Jae - 41lb 7oz Pullens Lake



Lloyd Anderson - Prairie Lake



Darren Wood - 51lb 8oz Westend Lake



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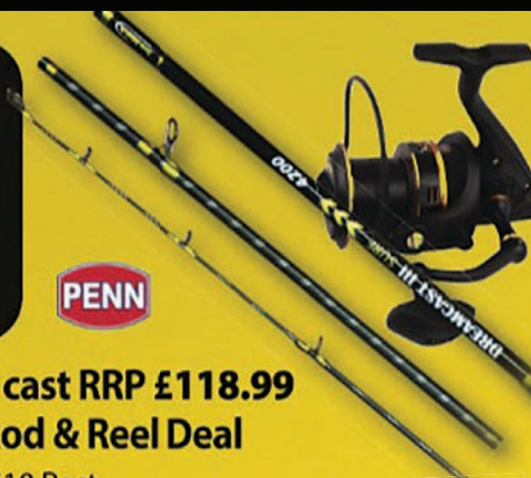


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**Hawkhurst Fish Farm** Hawkhurst, Kent

Jack Spoor - Dove Lake



Jake Goodsell - Main Lake



Curtis Brightwell - 30lb 2oz Speci Lake

It's great to see our anglers doing so well across the site, with several anglers landing new PBs and some stunning fish being caught. The majority of fish out have been carp, but over the last couple of weeks we have seen some catfish gracing the banks as well. Some highlights include carp

to 28lbs from **Dove Lake** caught by **Christian Wenban**, **Curtis Brightwell** landing his first 30lb'er on Specimen Lake in the form of a stunning Mirror, and several 30's also coming out of **Main Lake** one caught by **Ashley Hills** as part of a 7 fish session! Both **Ron Davis** and **Alex Evans** have caught catfish from **Quarry Lake** we have had several great reports from other

anglers on Quarry with some lovely looking carp.

We are pleased to say our **Junior Lakes** are now open 7 days a week, 10am - 5pm, with no pre-booking required.

Our on site café is also now open 7 days a week, 9am - 4pm, offering a great selection of breakfasts, lunches and sweet treats!



Fun on the Junior Lakes



Ashley Hills - Main Lake



Nicholas Meadows - Dove Lake



Alex Evans - 19lb 8oz Quarry Lake



Quarry Lake - Tommy Coster



Sussex Socials - Main Lake

**Hawkhurst Fish Farm**

Hastings Road, Hawkhurst, Kent, TN18 4RT

T: 01580 753813 E: info@hawkhurstfishfarm.co.uk

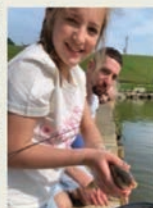
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Open 10am – 5pm, 7 days a week.



No booking or experience required! With 3 very well stocked ponds, it's the perfect place for novice anglers (young or old!) to come and enjoy the pleasure of catching a fish – or several!

We've got everything covered, from equipment hire to rod licences, and our water bailiff will be there to offer assistance.



Check [www.hawkhurstfishfarm.co.uk](http://www.hawkhurstfishfarm.co.uk) for more info!

**Iden Wood Fishery**

Tel/Fax: Andy Ashdown

01797 280180

Mobile:

07906 232225

5 secluded lakes set in 60 acres of woodland, containing Carp to 30lbs, Tench to 5lbs, Bream to 9lb plus Roach, Rudd and Chub

Vehicle access/night fishing allowed / match bookings taken

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| Coldharbour Lane | Iden | Rye |  
East Sussex | TN31 7UT



SANDWICH LAKES Sandwich Ash Road (A257), Near Canterbury CT3 2DA

email: enquiries@sandwichlakes.co.uk

Sandwich  
Coarse Fishery

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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*

All bookings



on Sandwich Lakes

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**Claygate Lakes** Claygate, Marden, Kent

**Lake Eva** Well done **Tom** on his new **PB** 10lb 2oz. Another new **PB** went to **Bob** who is slightly older than Tom!



**Lake Amy** Well done **Sarah** on your catch, tying your own rig and finding the spot. Well with the weather changing for the better it was nice to see **Ray Monday** back on the fish along with **Matt Good** after his spell fishing for pike. Matt even managed his first fish off the top this year.

**New Claygate Lakes****DAY & NIGHT FISHING - TN12 9PL**

For all match and pleasure bookings and enquiries please ring Dave **07770 513448**  
**NIGHT FISHING ON ALL LAKES**

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UNIT**LAKE AMY** - Carp to upper 30s**LAKE EVA** match/pleasure - Carp 27lb+ Tench 11lb+ Chub 5lb+ Barbel 6lb+ Perch 5lb+ Bream and other silvers**LAKE SOPHIE** match/pleasure - Carp 16lb+ Tench 8lb+ Chub 5lb+ Barbel 4lb+ Perch 3lb+ Bream 11lb+ Roach 2lb+ Skimmer Bream and other silvers**www.newclaygatelakes.co.uk**

**Lake Sophie** **Richie** found a shoal of bream ..happy days for him. Another new **PB** went to **Bob** slightly older than Tom, Bob had an 8lbs bream from **Sophie**.

**Mousehole Lakes** Paddock Wood, Kent

Preston - 8lbs



Anthony - 39lbs 6ozs



Harry - 20lbs



Cameron - 21lbs 4ozs



Connor - 15lbs



Jason - 18lbs



Ross - 26lbs 9ozs



Jack - 25lbs



Max - 28lbs



Jason - 30lbs 8ozs

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Email:

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We are a commercial day ticket fishery and have 2 Specimen Lakes, 3 Coarse Lakes and 3 Ponds.

Open 7am - 7pm Summer time and 7am - 6pm Winter time. Day ticket, overnight and long stays welcome.

### Facilities include:

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6pm (Winter)

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## Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society

**The Old Ballast Pit** The Carp fishing has been excellent of late with several multiple fish captures reported. The best being that of venue bailiff Lawrence who bagged 13 fish, 7 of which were over 20lbs up to 24lbs 3ozs and the biggest weighing 33lbs 5ozs. 5 of the other fish were all between 13lbs and 18lbs.

**Ash Laker** had a couple of low twenty pound Carp on a two nighter as well as 4 other fish. **Philip Wooldridge** had a new **PB** of 32lbs 7ozs. **Steve Twort** had a cracking day of Bream fishing, landing 16 fish, all around the 6lbs mark. The Pike fishing had picked up in recent weeks too, with fish reported to 16lbs.

**The New Lagoon** Although it has been quiet recently, the fish are now beginning to show more frequently. Carp to 9lbs, Tench to 6lbs, Bream to 6lbs and a few Perch are being caught.

**Pippins Farm** This cracking little water is getting a few more visitors of late, especially as we have recently stocked it with over 600 Crucians to around 10ozs and a handful of decent Perch.



**Barden Lake** Pike fishing picked up a little recently with a couple of doubles reported. Carp fishing is starting to improve as one of the bigger fish has been landed in the last week.

### Longfield Lake

The odd Tench to around 6lbs are starting to show and should improve now it is warming up.

### This year's match programme came to an end on the last weekend of the season.

**Austin Battell** was leading the Match Championship coming into the pairs match and finished in style with top individual weight (9lbs 8ozs) and top pairs weight with partner **Peter Hole** (1lb 15ozs). Austin caught fish from the off and throughout the day, also bagging the best fish of the day with a 1lb 14ozs Chub. **Mick Orum** took the Gudgeon prize, catching 71 Gudgeon on the day and **Tom Sawyer** won 'Guess the Winners combined weight', only being an ounce out!

#### MATCH CHAMPIONSHIP

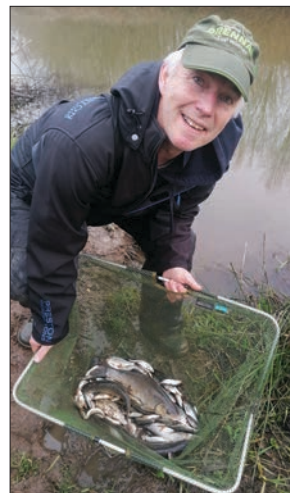
#### PAIRS MATCH - HARTLAKE UP & DOWN

<b>1st</b>	Austin Battell / Peter Hole	11lb 7oz
<b>2nd</b>	John Cooper / Roger Trask	7lb 11oz
<b>3rd</b>	Ray Berry / Tony Hyland	6lb 9oz

#### WINTER PEGDOWN

<b>1st</b>	Lee Wakeman	6lb 0oz
<b>2nd</b>	Colin Fowler	3lb 14oz
<b>3rd</b>	Martyn Hill	2lb 10oz

<b>1st</b>	Austin Battell	99lb 13.5oz
<b>2nd</b>	Steve Parker	78lb 8oz
<b>3rd</b>	Mick Smith	69lb 8oz
<b>4th</b>	Colin Fowler	59lb 3oz



### Robin Piper put pen to paper and sent me this letter:

"Dear Barry, When I was working for the Royal Mail we had a fishing group consisting of two teams of six and competed against other depots. Our matches were held during the season on the River Thames from Richmond to Chertsey. We had one match a month through the Autumn, none in December due to the Christmas pressure, but would then resume in January.

The last match would be the final at Laleham. Most, if not all of the catches, were of skimmers, roach and gudgeon and we fished with open ended feeders with a screw in swing tip. Who fishes with one of those today! However, it worked ok as long as the tip was out straight.

Maggots were the 'in bait' with breadcrumb to mix and there were some nice bags of fish caught as I remember, but as much as our team tried we generally picked up the 'wooden spoon' for the best 'tryers'! On all the matches our team had the lowest weights and the amount of time we sat waiting for that swing tip to straighten out. In those days no one had bivvies, buzzers or did anyone use a catapult as the tidal Thames was constantly moving up and down so the bait was always going to end up in another swim. There was no real skill involved in those days, you just hoped that you was going to have a good day!

The rest of the year saw some of us fish from the tow path near Kingston Bridge. I used to like to fish a feeder under the first arch and wait for a pull round on the tip. We did have some good fish at times. We also used to like to fish by the warm water outlet near the power station on the other side of Kingston Bridge just a short distance downstream. You could see all the silver fish turning in the water so I would set up a small waggler and often would pick up some good roach and bream. They were good days and you were not bothered too much as you were enjoying yourself.

I returned there only last Summer to that very section where I used to fish long ago and saw just two anglers. Very sad that so few fish this lovely stretch of water. When we had our matches there we had a walk off as all the London staff and offices competed and picked out a number from 1 to well over 100! Unfortunately, nowadays the roads in the area have double yellow lines, permit parking, limited parking etc If you can find parking it is in a multi-storey!

Apart from that some very good memories from the 'old days' which I cherish!" **Regards, Robin Piper**



Letter to  
the editor







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## Greenacres Farm Fishery Biddenden, Kent

**Speci 1** This lake has been proving challenging at times with the weather being so up and down, but, those that are up for a challenge, have been rewarded with a couple of fish. Solid pva bags over a small bed of particle has seemed to be the winning ways of getting a few fish out. Andy Humphreys has been at it again and managed some lovely fish.

**Speci 2** Catfish have started to wake up with the warmer weather settling in and one of our regulars, **Anthony Hildige**, managed to get a 41lbs PB which was one of 7 fish in 48hrs. Soft baits seem to be working at the moment like luncheon meat and worms. Carp are being caught on small baited areas fishing bottom baits or pop-ups and don't forget your solid pva bags.

**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 mixed bags of fish are being caught now that the weather is warming up.

**Kingfisher** This is an overstocked 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 with also the odd roach, rudd and gudgeon.



Anthony Hildige



Andy Humphreys

**Editor's note: Apologies to Greenacres bailiff Martin and Ian Stones as these two photos were captioned wrongly last month!**

### RULES

- Please dip all nets, slings, cradles and unhooking mats located in carparks before entering any lakes.
- No one under the age of 16 to be left unattended at all times, this also means to and from the toilet.
- No one under the age of 18 is allowed to night fish without a responsible ADULT.
- No takeaways after 6pm



Bailiff Martin Parker



Ian Stones

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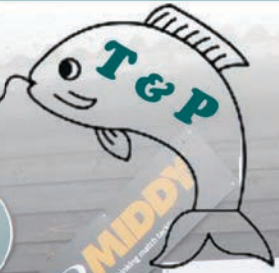
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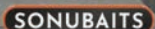


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To be in with a chance to win this fantastic set of GRIPZ hooks, all you have to do is send us your catch photo via our Facebook message page or email [barnic@btinternet.com](mailto:barnic@btinternet.com) Entry is FREE and all coarse fish photos are 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

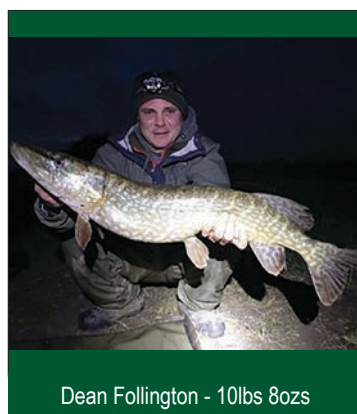
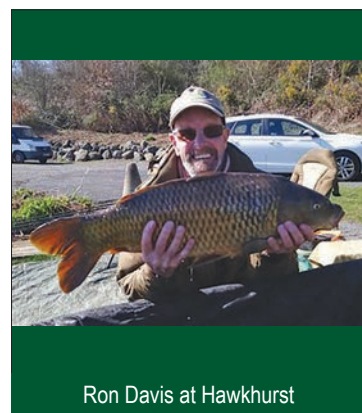
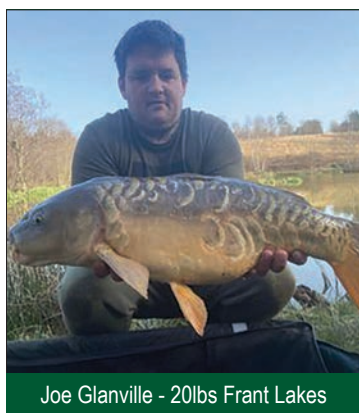
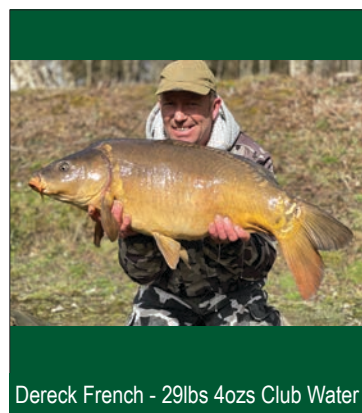
After extensive research, where the limitations of both barbed and barbless were scrutinised, there has been an obvious need for improvement thus resulting in this radical design that crosses the boundaries between what we have had and what we now have. Made from high grade Japanese wire, the key improvement 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 MARCH is...  
**Matthew Colegate**  
*well done!*







Billy Hutchings - 21lbs 8ozs Geddes Lake 3



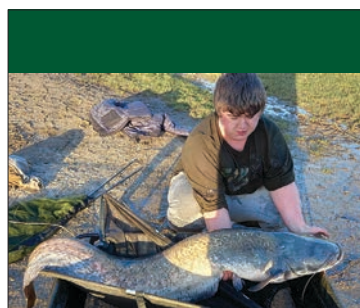
Ben Wiggins - 19lbs 8ozs



Anthony Stygal - 17lbs Basils Lake Darent



Mark Chapman - Kingscote Estate Fishery



Lewis Hodges - 70lbs Orchard Place Farm



Mark Day - River Stour



Andy Humphreys - Greenacres Fishery



Matthew Good at Claygate Lakes



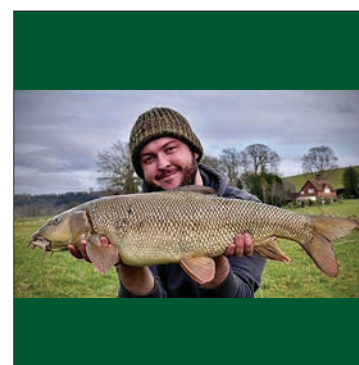
Lewis Smith - 23lbs 6ozs Wylands



Alex Ashton - 2lbs Dunorlan Park



Mark Hallinan - 17lbs 4ozs Knightingales Fishery



Matthew Colegate - 10lbs 10ozs



Luke Andrews - Kingscote Estate Fishery



Peter Thomason - 9lbs 2ozs Brick Farm



Christopher Ryan - Sandwich Lakes



Daniel Barton - Hartley Lands



Chris Cooke - 17lbs



Roy Brett 20lbs Lovelace



Joe Glanville - 21lbs Frant Lakes



Darren Wood - 51lbs 8ozs Elphicks





## Welcome to The Willows Angling Centre

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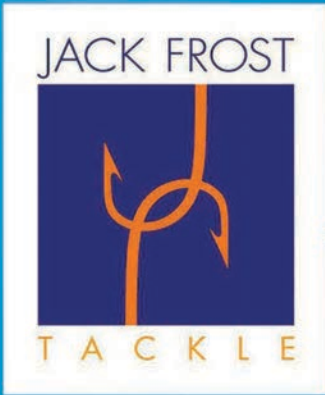
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# Going full circle!

**A** couple of weeks ago I leant over the railings of the small bridge crossing the tiny Scottish Burn at Kinloss on the Moray Firth and the memories from fifty years ago came flooding back. I am a great believer that life is all about creating and remembering fantastic memories and this spot was where I first ever fished and I still remember it so clearly. This peaty little flow was where my brother, Andy, and I tried enthusiastically to catch the little red bellied sticklebacks from the



depths and when the first one was hooked the excitement was incredible. Fishing still makes me feel that way to this day.

In remembering those formative years, and seeing my first ever 'swim' after so long, really set my mind into thinking of all of my angling memories and how much I actually enjoyed catching little fish on balanced gear where even the smallest fish still gave the line a tug and sent the heart thumping with excitement. I have bounced all over the sport of angling from boats in Bermuda to carp fishing in South Africa, but so many happy memories have been actually catching the smallest fish, where in more recent years I have become somewhat fixated on the larger fish, especially carp. Don't get me wrong, I love fishing for all and everything, but shouldn't I travel back in time to where it all started, with tiny fish, to see if it still had the same effect?

Of course, I had now set myself a challenge and my darling wife, Tini, and my boys bought me a beautiful Drennan float rod which would work perfectly for targeting small fish, but still able to give me the thrill of playing and landing. In truth, fishing gear, across all sectors, has become much heavier than what my generation was introduced to, where balanced gear was matched up to the tactics and target species whilst still allowing you to really enjoy yourself even when you land the tiniest of fish.

I think LRF (Light Rod Fishing) reinforces this, which is a style of fishing that is gaining traction now in the UK, having come from countries like Japan where it is mainstream. The angler is using the lightest of gear to catch, for example, small sea fish, where in reality you would have never detected the bite and certainly not enjoyed the fight. A 4ozs pollack can give a real true account of itself and the bite detection on 3lbs braid really opens your eyes to how many bites we are missing on heavier and, therefore, less sensitive gear. It really is something to appreciate within your angling that bite detection can be a major flaw especially within modern trends like alarms which can give you false indications born from assumptions!

After what seems like weeks of wet and miserable weather, I had decided to sneak off for a few hours as soon as the sun popped out. I had chosen a local lake that I know contains some pretty roach and they were going to be my target fish, anything else a bonus. Bait preparation is always high on my list of priorities so the hook bait on my light float set up was to be what must be one of the most successful, the humble red maggot. But with water temperatures still nigh on



'baltic', I had

prepped my groundbait mix up to really be active and potent to not only 'shout out', but also to instigate fish into feeding.

For me, my mixes must always contain proper food ingredients alongside 'extras' that would create the reaction I was looking for and so my Daphnia and Maggot Crush was cut with our small 2mm Coarse Pellets and a healthy dash of Maggot Powderz. This granulated powder is 100% maggot and really is a powerful enhancer. Finally, was the addition of dried Gammarus Shrimp. A great food source for fish, which contains air within their structure. Once you make the mix up and it hits the deck of your swim, the air filled Gammarus Shrimp start to 'fight' its way out of the mix and, therefore, even in the coldest and most sterile water conditions, you can still create a cloud of attraction throughout the water columns.

Conditions were not ideal with the bright sunlight and the wind was really getting on for storm force, but the swim was selected and my float cast out over a bed of my ground bait. To be fair, this mix is so consistent and it was only a few minutes before the float jiggled and disappeared and I tightened into the first roach of many that visited the bank over the next three hours. They were mint, like they had just been printed and I started to appreciate something that I had been overlooking for far too long. These little fish were beautiful, fun to catch and just reinforced that I should really embrace such sessions again and







not just travel the same path of specimen hunting. It was genuinely three hours of my childhood revisited and I really had forgotten how obsessive it was to watch for that bite from my small red tipped float.

I just kept on getting bites and, therefore, kept on feeding little and often, keeping the shoal interested but not overfeeding. The only other species that wandered into my swim was a tiny skimmer, again in absolutely mint condition as I held it in my hand and studied instead of just popping it back, which I probably would have normally done.

Needless to say, I have my 'mojo' back to fish this way far more often and as the weather warms up other species will come onto my radar, it really is a case of watching this space!

*Simon 'Pom' Pomeroy*



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### Night fishing: Only by prior booking.

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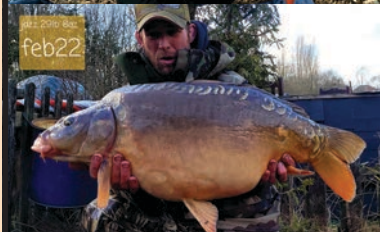
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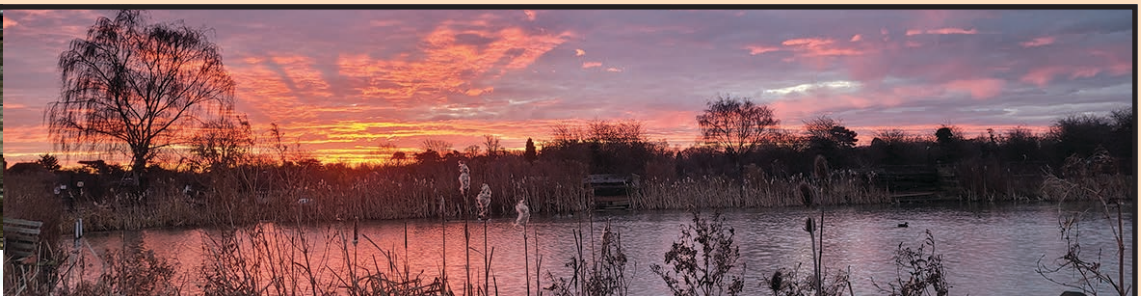
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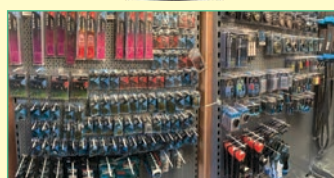
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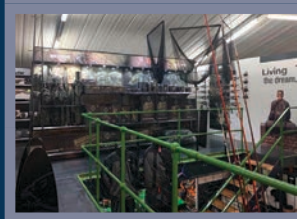
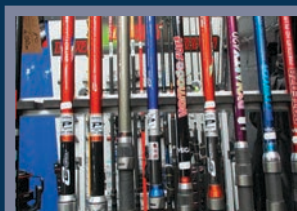
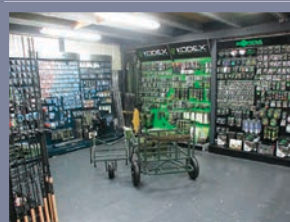
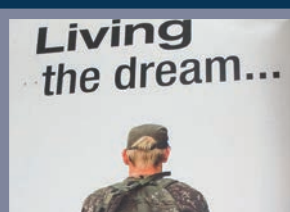
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Thames at Oxford

Photo courtesy of Esther Johnson

# The Golden Years of Coarse Fishing

by Bob Rolph

## The former huge roach of the London reservoirs - PART TWO

Last month Bob took a look back at the London reservoirs and the angling opportunities they offered. In the second part of this informative article, Bob takes a closer look at some of the fishing he enjoyed in those Golden Days!

*Dave Hill plays a 2lb er with me waiting with the net (old mesh net, illegal today)!*



Two shillings and sixpence was all that was needed for a day's fishing, payable on the day to the resident official in the office on site at 8am sharp! It was first come, first served for the day ticket plus possession of a valid river board licence, as now, was required. In those days each Water Board issued their own Rod licences and this was a pain if you travelled the country and had to get a ticket first. The advent of the National Rod Licence by the Environment Agency was a Godsend in 1975! At the time you couldn't fish before 8am and had to be off the water by sunset, so off we went to explore this new fishing venue, 7 of us if I remember correctly, armed mainly with loaves of bread, maggots and worms.

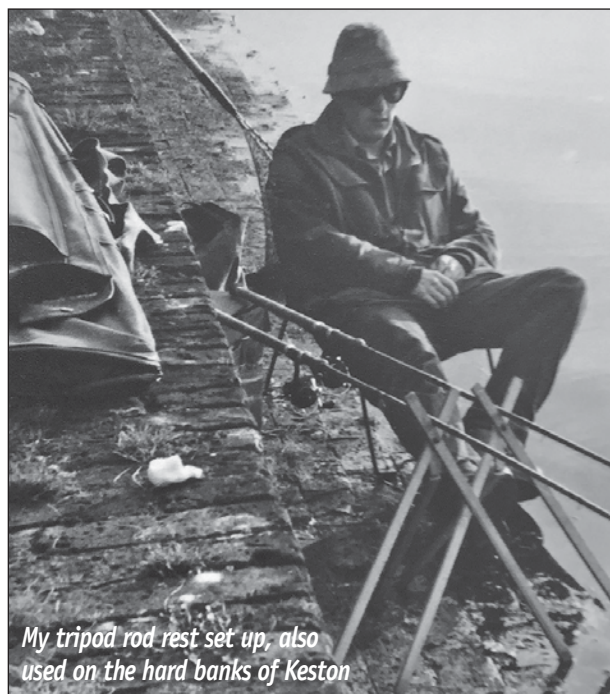
With very little advanced knowledge of how to tackle this huge expanse of water, rumour had it that fishing at long range with punched bread flake on the bottom was the method the London boys had been using at Staines. I knew Peter Butler well, even been to his house at Colindale, but he was reluctant to let on too much about their baits and methods, other than what he had published in the Fishing Magazines! All he told me was that bites were hard to hit at such long range and to be patient!

We plumped first for the No 1 Reservoir which was nearest to the car park at the foot of the long flight of steps leading up to the water's edge. The banks were difficult for fishing with just a narrow ledge below a 5ft retaining wall. Any sort of bank stick or rod rest was out of the question on the solid concrete banks, so I developed a wooden tripod rod rest

which fitted the bill exactly. Casts of over 50 yards or more with bread on a size 8 hook and Arlesey bomb lead, fished in about 15 foot of water, was the chosen method to start with, but bites were difficult to detect, fishing as we always did into the wind on the North side of the reservoir.

It took us several trips in the Autumn of 1965 before we hit the jackpot and began to catch big roach on a regular basis. Fishing in a row, like matchmen, the bites came as the roach shoals moved along from right to left and many a time we all had fish on one after another. The gently sloping concrete banks proved difficult, but 2lbs + roach started to grace our nets on a very regular basis. Keepnets, I believe, were banned, so photos of more than a brace of fish at a time were rare, but we did manage several hundred good fish up to 2lbs 12ozs over the three years that we fished there, mainly in the Autumn months. Grahame Igglesden and Brian Hepple both had the biggest fish and I had them to 2lbs 4ozs. We photographed them as we could up on the grass walkways between the reservoirs, and I subsequently wrote about it all in Creel magazine just before it folded in about 1968.

The late Peter Butler and his group became good friends, and we fished together on several occasions on the Royalty, but their catches at Staines beat us kids from Kent hands down once all the secrecy died down, and our true catches were revealed. There was a great deal of friendly rivalry between the various groups and secrecy was paramount at the time, least swims, baits and venues were revealed! Just like today, no doubt, with the carp!



*My tripod rod rest set up, also used on the hard banks of Keston*



Roach are on the up again with some great fish reported from our lakes, rivers and reservoirs again after a bit of a lull. At my local lake in Chilham, the roach are growing fast and provide me with great sport on light float tackle with maggots or sweetcorn. The demise of the fishing, and those great anglers that fished at the time, are sad to reflect on, but their memories live on in the great books and articles that so many of them left behind. Book reflections are being published



**Grahame Igglesden with a brace of 2lbs+ roach**

every month and one of the latest is that of the great countryman and angler Fred J. Taylor. I will be reviewing 12 of the best books in time for next Christmas, most of which are published by The Little Egret Press, they are all very limited edition hardbacks, so you better get in quick if you want a copy! The leather collectors' copies are the most expensive and they are the copies that always go first!

There are now so many serious collectors of hardback specialist fishing books that they either buy to resell at a later date or collect in huge libraries covering whole walls. I have several friends who have collections of over one thousand with a value into tens of thousands of pounds! Some buy two copies, one to read and one to keep in mint form, to appreciate in value. We are talking several hundred pounds for a rare



**Me with another 2lb Roach**

limited edition work by a sought after angler! Try finding a copy of 'A Carp Water' by BB for under £400, just a slip of a book, but very rare, or Confessions of a Carp Fisher in mint condition for less than £300. First editions are essential, but need to be in mint condition. I once found a copy at a boot fair in Sevenoaks for £4! It now takes pride of place amongst my collection of 400 books. Catch a Big Fish by David Carl Forbes is another if you can find one, worth £200 at least. Never lend books to other old fishermen, I'm still missing Jim Gibbinson's 'Carp', a first edition and signed, worth £150 if it's a penny!

Another point worth noting is to get them signed by the authors at a book signing or book fair, but not simply "To Fred", Best fishes, Dick Walker. Some line up to get each chapter signed by the respective author at the head of the page. It's supposed to enhance the value, but I'll never know as I never sell any of mine! My family will be able to tell you at the end of the day, as long as they don't let the house clearance people in! Go to specialist dealers in Hay-on-Wye, or the like, there are many about, or best advertise online after having first

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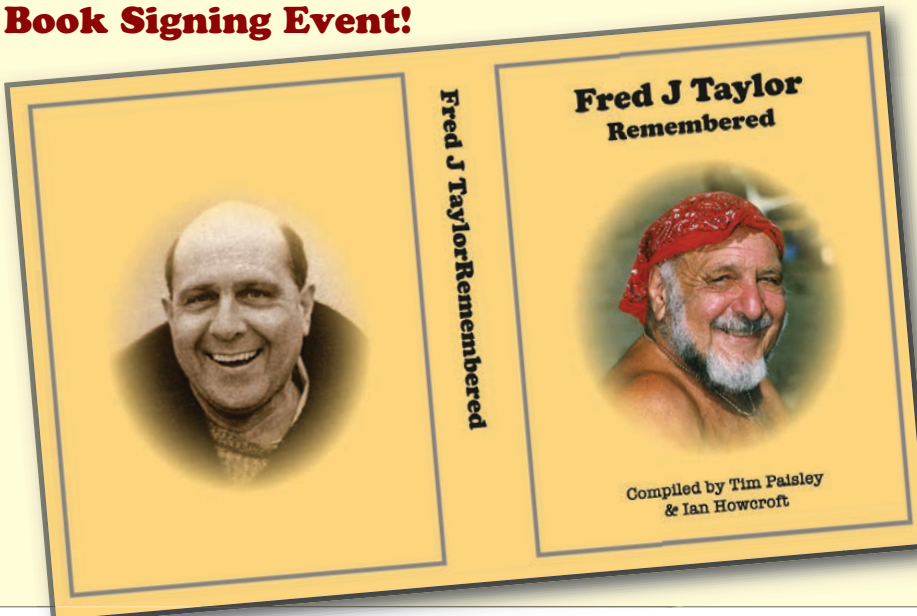
**Bob Rolph**

**Is it over the magical two pound mark?**



**Not all our fish were over 2lbs, but beautiful condition Roach!**

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Les Webber and Wayne Cryer.  
Chris Tarrant will be doing a book and tackle auction  
in aid of the Les Webber foundation



# Medway Man

## Bob Morris

**L**ast month I talked about the Oil Spill into the Medway at Yalding and promised to update you on the outcome. So first of all I will do just that this time as I believe that the environment and incidents of this nature are of the utmost importance and should be at the top of the Agenda.

This was a potentially serious pollution of the river as the volume of the dumped oil was considerable. It does appear though that it seems to have been a lucky escape as far as the riverside life was concerned with a number of swans and waterfowl having to be cleaned up, but, little sign of fish losses as far as I am aware at the moment. Following the fly tipping of this oil into a ditch in the area, a substantial amount of it found its way into the river at the Yalding Marina. As reported last month, the EA were fortunately able to attend fairly quickly and prevent the majority of this oil getting out onto the main stream. This could have been much worse and it definitely should serve as a warning to all of us to watch out for this type of illegal activity and have the EA 'Hotline' number **0800 807060** on speed dial in your phone.

On the fishing front, I have just concluded my Pike fishing for the winter and will now be switching my attention to the Tench in particular, but also some decent bream that I started to pursue last summer. I am off to a slow start on this campaign however and

the first couple of sessions proved to be pretty grim with the only excitement being the odd invasion of my margin float swim by carp. Not that I mind doing battle with big carp on my 1 1/4lb twelve footer and centerpin combination, but it does disturb my tench fishing! The truth is though that you can only catch what is there and the fact that the carp are showing interest in my tactics shows that it is just a matter of time before I get into the tench again.

The Bream are a different proposition however and most of my catches in recent years have come on feeder tactics, at some distance, and last summer I started using some jumbo feeders constructed from large hair curlers. I think that I did feature them in this column at some stage and I had been particularly successful with a floating version of these that I was using for the roach on one of the more weedy waters.

The whole idea of feeder fishing is basically to deliver a small pile of freebies / groundbait to your chosen area in an accurate and attractive way and I class PVA bags etc, as part of these tactics as it is still the best method of presenting a small patch of larger baits, such as boilies, around your hookbait.

Although my standard approach to this type of fishing is to combine it with a number of balls of groundbait, put out into the same area, it is also the case that it works well enough without this addition, when you want to keep disturbance to a minimum. It is still a lot better than a single hookbait for creating a bit of instant interest, especially if you are on a new patch and are not really sure where to cast. I am really looking forward to this Spring and Summer's fishing and I am already enjoying being out and



*Target species*



*Method feeder mix*



*Decent Roach on the float*



**Feeder tactics**

about on the bankside and watching / welcoming all the returning birds and other wildlife and, of course, also observing their relative numbers, often, it has to be said, with some concern.

I have been asked frequently how I am progressing with the new book and the answer is OK, I am getting there. The content of this one has now become a combination of two Ideas. Following the publication of my first book 'Carping Aside', I had always planned to do a second one pretty well

along the same lines. Unfortunately, I became rather disillusioned with the whole publishing process and the way that I had been treated by the Publisher. Not that I was the only one to get shafted, in fact the whole business ended in court action which may even still be going on! I always want to avoid this sort of scenario, where possible, and prefer to reserve such actions

as a last resort. The second Idea is one that I have always had is about doing a 'Medway Man' book loosely based on the same format as this column with stories and tales of my fishing activities along with some political comment about current affairs and issues on the fishing scene. The book will contain a full account of my current attitudes towards Angling and various other happenings that have greatly concerned me recently. I understand that certain people are not looking forward to this publication - I wonder why?

As I will be publishing and marketing this book myself, I think that I must be looking at all avenues to promote it and as someone pointed out to me the other day, if the sales are strong enough, it may even go a way towards reimbursing me for the substantial legal fees that I have been forced to swallow over the last couple of years! Just a clue!!!

**Nice bream for Bob****Margin fishing, using the 'lift method'**

*Best Fishes & Experiences, Bob Morris*

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**\*Watch Out For Bob's New Book\***

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## Hello and welcome to the April edition of Junior Informer!

I cannot believe that Easter is almost upon us! I am sure you are all looking forward to a couple of weeks off and the chance to get out and do some fishing. At the time of writing, the weather is looking very settled with warm sunny days, but cool nights and the chance of frost. The cold nights don't help with water temperature, but the fish are now waking up and responding to the sunshine during the day and the longer daylight hours. They certainly sense that the seasons are changing and are coming out of their winter slumber!

The rivers are now closed for fishing until June, but our region has a huge variety of great lakes that offer many kinds of different fishing. Have a look through the magazine to decide where you would like to fish next! Wherever you are in the South East there is a water within a short drive of your town or village. Even though the days are getting warmer, the water will take a lot longer to warm up so it is worth bearing that in mind when baiting up. I would suggest that you remain cautious when introducing feed in to your swim. Put in small amounts to begin with and when you are confident the fish are feeding you can then gradually introduce a little more. Very often a swimfeeder approach is a great starting point as you are only feeding small amounts of food through the feeder rather than balling in a larger amount. Try and get in to the habit of casting your feeder every few minutes rather than cast it and leave it for ages. Bites generally come very quickly to a baited feeder and carp are attracted to the sound of the feeder hitting the water and will come and investigate. By casting to the same spot each time, your chances of catching are greatly increased so casting practise is essential for hitting that same spot every time.

Give it a try! **Enjoy your fishing, Barry Reed**



## JUNIOR INFORMER PHOTO ALBUM

Each 'Ready, Steady, Fish' pack contains:

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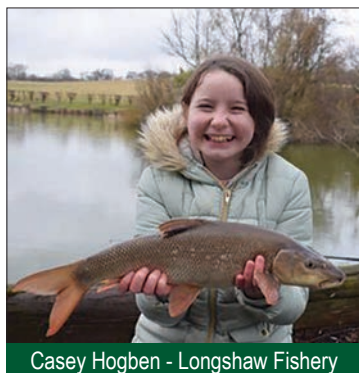
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**KIDS IN MIND ANGLING ADVENTURES**  
**New angling charity for local children!**

**"My name is Lewis Smith and I am from Hastings. I am the founder of KIDS IN MIND ANGLING ADVENTURES Charity where our sole aim is to get youngsters out on the bank fishing to aid with many issues such as anxiety, depression and peer pressure problems. The young people can come and spend a day or many days on the bank FREE of charge where they can learn to fish and gain new skills even if they already have some angling knowledge. We are also working with the Angling Trust to put on the Get Fishing Award sessions to run alongside our charity's days and events in the future. Do take a look at our Facebook page Kids In Mind Angling Adventures or email me for more information at [info@kima.fishing](mailto:info@kima.fishing). Keep an eye out for our new website coming soon!" Lewis Smith, Founder**

**Great day for Kelsey!**

Adam Fairclough sent in this report after he and daughter Kelsey had a great session at Charlies match lake near Ashford:



*"I enjoyed some time at Charlies Match Lake with my daughter Kelsey. She managed 13 carp on a day session and outfished her dad that's for sure! It was really good fun on the lake and we had 21 carp between us in about 7 hours."*



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## April update by instructor Warren White



### A trip to Hadlow College!

Early Spring is a busy time of year for us as our BTEC Fishery work has to be completed by the end of the month as part of the career move for when our students leave school. We visited Hadlow College recently to give the students who are taking the BTEC Fisheries course the opportunity to have a good look around the college as a pathway to Higher Education and it's not only fishing courses on offer at the college as they cater for so many other career moves, including equine, horticulture, farming, reptiles etc.

Brian Bailey and the students in the fish hatchery



Our visit around the college was arranged by the Fisheries Manager Brian Bailey who guided us around the facilities and gave the young people an interesting and enjoyable day.

When entering the main college I bumped into Sam Weedon, one of our previous students who went on to study at Hadlow College, and we had a quick chat. Sam told me how much he was enjoying himself at the college after coming through the F4S programme and then completed the BTEC Fisheries course at school. He is now is on a course that involves fisheries and he has recently been made a young ambassador for F4S and what a good young role model he is for other young people to look up to! Brian Bailey, the fishery manager, informed me that some of our other ex-students are doing well at the college, one lad is working in Animal Management as he wants to be a Zoo Keeper and work with aquatic mammals, great news!



It was a really excellent and interesting day at Hadlow for the students from Rowhill school who are taking the BTEC fishery course. We use Hadlow fishery as our base for the course and the purpose of the tour of the main college and the site's facilities was to enable our students to actually see and experience first hand the fish hatchery, equine centre, animal management centre looking at birds, farm animals and other live stock. We even visited a reptile re-homing centre!

It was a great experience for our pupils and something for them to think about as a career move when they leave school later this year.

Warren White



One of the fish tanks



## *Busy time for Hadlow College students!*

*Brian Bailey, the Commercial Fisheries Manager at Hadlow College, sent us this report following some work that a team of students carried out at The Willows Angling Centre*

"I thought I would share with you and your readers a recent netting at Willows Angling Centre at Sittingbourne [www.thewillowsanglingcentre.co.uk](http://www.thewillowsanglingcentre.co.uk). One of Hadlow College's Fisheries Department's groups netted the specimen lake, it's not the easiest lake to net due to the islands and large reed beds but the results

were good. We managed to catch two of the lake's eight 30's and many 20's. Two large pike were also caught, but what was great to see was the eel population in the lake. Various eels of different life stages were caught, but the highlight was the elver (pictured left).

It's rare to see elvers and this one has probably been here for about a year, judging by its colouration, which means it's around three years old – having spent two years making it's epic journey all the way from the Sargasso Sea!"



For more information on our work and activities follow  
Hadlow College Fisheries Department on Instagram @ fisheries\_hadlow



# TROUT INFORMER



## Brick Farm Lakes

Herstmonceux, East Sussex



Spring has definitely now arrived and the fishing is reflecting it! We are getting almost daily hatches coming off the lakes which is making for some great sport on buzzers and even dry flies too. Damsels are of course still producing fish, but it is well worth using smaller flies as the trout are rapidly moving onto the natural offerings that Spring brings. We are still getting very good catch rates and as ever are happy to offer advice in the lodge alongside a complimentary tea or coffee if it's required. As for specific catches, we are still stocking the larger fish within the weekly deliveries so they are regularly appearing in the catch report book, the best recently being a fin perfect 12lb 12oz brown pictured below caught by **Simon Price**. We also had **Jack Ansell** visit us recently with his Father who was very pleased to land his first ever trout being a 2lbs 8ozs rainbow out of Brick Lake - it's always great to see the next generation of anglers enjoying the sport with so much passion!

## Brick Farm Lakes Trout Fishery

Prices start from £32 for 2 fish  
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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 it's 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.



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[www.brickfarmlakes.co.uk](http://www.brickfarmlakes.co.uk)

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April Heasman - 3lbs 12ozs



Simon Price - 12lbs 12ozs



Peter Thomason - 9lbs 2ozs



Jack Ansell - 2lbs 8ozs



## Tenterden Trout Waters Tenterden, Kent

The Trout Fishing Season and Spring have got off to great start at Tenterden with our recent stocking. We have had a wide range of fish caught in the last month in the 3-10lbs category including Blues and Brownies and they have all put up a great fight for our Anglers, some being broken at the net which is very frustrating. We pride ourselves in stocking hard fighting Trout and it has been great to be on the receiving end of some good reviews from our Anglers who have been enjoying their sport at Tenterden. The patterns working at the moment are: Montana - Black with Orange/Green, Black Lure, Blue Flash Damsel, Bloodworm on Lake 3 (our larger lake).

**Steve Collins** had a great weekend staying in the Shepherds Hut and caught his **PB** 9lbs Rainbow on Lake 3 on a Black Lure. He was delighted as you can see in the photo and returned home a very Happy Fisherman! We like to provide this great experience for our Anglers and you can find out more about staying in our Hut on our website.

All 3 Lakes (just under 5 acres of water) are fully stocked with quality Rainbows, Blues & Brownies so make sure you fish them all when you are visiting to get the maximum out of your visit, we suggest you move every hour. 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 with kitchen/dining/sofa, toilet and lakeside balcony where you can relax. All this adds to a good fishing experience for friends and family at Tenterden.

Please call or email [gaynor@coombe-farm.com](mailto: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 - it works well.

**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](mailto:richard@coombe-farm.com) if you are interested in learning a new skill in 2022. It is always fun to learn new things in life and you can purchase a lesson as a gift voucher experience for someone special. For an up-to-date fishing report please go to our website: [www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk](http://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.

We offer 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](mailto:gaynor@coombe-farm.com) - we can email/send them out for you. We look forward to welcoming you here for some exciting Spring fishing at our friendly, family owned Fishery where you will catch some feisty Trout!

**Tight Lines - Gaynor, Richard, & Audrey**

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Steve Collins with his PB 9lbs Rainbow caught on a Black Lure - Lake 3

## Cinder Hill Fly Fishing 2022



With more commercial waters now lost to us, one of Mid-Sussex's best kept secrets, Cinder Hill Fly Fishing is thriving and able to offer some of the region's most natural, unspoilt, top quality and affordable trout fishing. Early membership applications are advisable.

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- For details contact:  
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01892 770903



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Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman

# Lure Fishing

## Early season tactics

*Early spring and the water's still cold at 6 degrees. With minimal fly hatches I'm not expecting any surface activity. I select a slow sinking intermediate fly line that sinks at around 1 to 1.5" per sec; this allows me to systematically dissect the water's layers, slowly. Using this line allows me to use unweighted flies which are more mobile and agile in the water than weighted versions. I angle my casts along the bank, this means my flies are in the shallower margins for most of the retrieve, an area where food accumulates and multiplies early in the season. I slowly use a figure of eight retrieve, occasionally speeding up before pausing in an effort to trigger a take. Finally, as the line approaches my casting position, I stop the retrieve and gently lift the rod in an effort again to trigger a take as my flies change direction and rise up towards the surface. I pause as my rod reaches the eleven o'clock position, the hang is so important especially early in the season when the water's cold because the fish are cold and slow moving too. The hang induces takes from fish that wouldn't take on the retrieve, but, you have to be very attentive as takes are very subtle. It's essential to watch your leader and dropper flies at this point, sometimes the leader looks too tight or at too steep an angle, lift sharply now and you'll be surprised how often you've connected with a fish! If nothing's there then just roll your line off the surface and start your next cast, no harm done.*

**Now the fishing** I recently fished Chequertree, Bethersden TN26 3JR [01233-820078]. It was a beautiful crisp, cold cloudless morning. With blue skies and bright sunshine it was hardly optimum conditions to catch trout, but any opportunity is worth taking, you can't catch them sitting at home! My game plan was to cast along the margin and when possible aim casts towards the adjacent margin putting my flies in two "high percentage" areas. The lake at Chequertree has a shallow marginal shelf that is very narrow, maybe only half a rod length wide before dropping into deeper water. I've noticed on previous visits that the fish often patrol along this shelf so it pays to stand back from the water's edge. My parallel casts were aimed over the shelf into deeper water. I employed the slow retrieve and hang approach while using a "mid-glass" intermediate line that sinks at 1" per second. My team of flies were as follows; unweighted damsel - point, black marabou tailed Diawl Bach - middle, and peach marabou tailed orange nymph - top.

After a few speculative casts gradually going deeper and slower each time, I finally got a response. I was about to execute the "lift" at the end of the retrieve when I felt a gentle pluck that at first I thought was my fly pinging off a reed stalk. But when it happened again I instinctively lifted and made contact with a very heavy fish that hugged the bottom all the way into the margin before powering off towards the middle of the lake. I quickly reeled up the loose line so there was no danger of getting it under my feet. I prefer to play fish off the reel whenever possible; you can apply far more controlled pressure using the reels smooth drag system. After a period of stalemate I turned the fish and slowly applied more pressure gaining line as I did, gradually I could see the line lift towards the surface. Finally, I got my first glimpse of a large brown trout that had taken the Diawl Bach. The water was clear enough to see every black spot along its broad flanks followed by an impressively large paddle tail. As I squatted down to net my prize, I was already thinking of the beautiful picture it would make, when I had that sickening feeling as the hook hold gave way, doh! I dropped my rod and walked away in an effort to calm myself down. Long range releases are never good, but fortunately I'd seen this magnificent creature, and so it was no surprise when Chris, the fishery owner, confirmed he'd stocked a few large browns to around 8lbs, which confirmed my 'guesstimate'.



A time to reflect

After that it was rather an anti-climax, although I did catch several rainbows including a blue trout. Blues are a strain of rainbow that can be distinguished by their grey-blue back; they fight harder and swim much higher in the water than rainbows for some reason. Most of my fish came within a few feet of the marginal shelf as my flies slowly edged their way up the slope towards the surface. My top dropper fly, which was visible first, caught most fish as they mooched along the bank. If I'm honest losing that brownie did take the edge off what was otherwise a very successful day.

**Lakedown** A break in the weather saw my first visit of the year to Lakedown Trout Fishery, Burwash TN21 8UX [07502 257428]. Yet another cold start and as always the puzzle to solve was how deep were the fish going to be? It's interesting how differently fish behave at different fisheries. I'm a victim of my own wanderlust, rarely visiting the same water twice in quick succession. It's surprising how shallow the fish often are even in the depths of winter. We might be chilled to the bone, but the trout revel in these conditions. As I sat drinking tea in the lodge with fishery legend Ted Cocklin I could see trout breaching the surface in the calm water. So fairly shallow looked likely, however, as soon as the breeze picked up they quickly disappeared!

With plenty of fish in all the lakes, I planned to make things interesting by trying to catch fish from each of the four lakes. I walked down the valley to Lake 4, the furthest from the lodge. I usually fish from the dam, but, by now, the breeze had turned into a



strong wind and was buffeting me too much for safety. I moved to a point that allowed me to cast down and across the wind. I was using a "fast glass" intermediate sinking line that sinks at 1.5" per sec to cut under the surface drift. My fly of choice, only single flies allowed at Lakedown, was a hot head damsel nymph, no time to be subtle in these conditions. I varied my count down between 10, 15 and 20 seconds, as well as mixing the retrieve speed. Success came quickly and a feisty rainbow came barrelling towards me at speed shedding the barbless hook as it slack lined me! Never mind I thought, this won't take long, another fish a few casts later, but this fish stayed at range doggedly shaking its head from side to side, with the same result! Two lost fish, I had to check the hook's point, it seemed ok, but I had to change the fly just in case. I now selected a Fulling Mill Kingfisher Damsel, I like this slimmer blue flash damsel pattern with its blue bead head. Fortunately the fish do too and I quickly got off the mark, the fish all took at a count of 15 seconds on a very slow figure eight retrieve with frequent pauses, so I'd estimate the taking depth at around 3-5ft.



*Giles Ellis never gave up, his reward, this double!*



*Another rainbow falls to the charms of a Diawl Bach*

success on previous trips so I started off using this tactic. No takes on various flies and retrieves so I had to move. I also changed to an unweighted UV Diawl Bach cast across the wind and allowed to drift with the wind. Shortly after the line drew tight and I'd caught a fish using a favourite method of basically doing nothing! I spooned this fish, as I had the others, but this fish was stuffed with food in the form of Daphnia.

Daphnia are sensitive to light and stay deep in sunlight, but move towards the surface in dull overcast conditions. Daphnia appears in vast clouds, these small water fleas are the freshwater equivalent of plankton, a nutritious food source, small in size maybe, but available in huge quantity and the trout love them. We know that flies with accents of orange, coral, pink or even chartreuse are very effective when trout are Daphnia feeding. Finally I arrive on Lake 1 full of confidence, with the light fading fast with the gathering clouds. The wind is blowing into the dam where I'm fishing, but fortunately I'm afforded some shelter by a copse of trees. It doesn't take me long to get my next fish, casting at an angle across the wind I let the line trundle along towards the dam while I just keep in contact taking up the slack. The takes, when they come, are very confident and I'm enjoying the action so much I elect to stay longer and catch a couple more. All are stuffed to the gills on the little water fleas!

*Til' next month, tight lines - Andy Lush*

On to Lake 3 and I fished a deep area I know that always holds fish, but I couldn't buy a take. I tried going deeper, then faster, then deeper and faster, but nothing worked! Lakedown regular Giles Ellis was fishing opposite me using a floating line and was struggling too which made me feel a little better. I switched to a floater and started casting along the shallow reed lined edges, but still nothing happened until I sped up and promptly missed a take! Next cast, I hooked a fish on the damsel nymph, but yet again it came off! This is indicative of how newly stocked fish behave as they adjust to their new environment. No longer being fed pellets they need to find a new food source and so the mouthing, almost tasting of flies without taking them confidently is an early season phenomenon I've experienced before. After a lunch break I moved across the lake to the point Giles had vacated. I put a gold headed Apps bloodworm on the floater, casting across the wind and allowed it to sink into the deep hole, as the fly swung around on the breeze the line tightened and I lifted into a fish

On to Lake 2 which is my favourite on the fishery and I chose to fish across the finger bay which was at the bottom end of the wind where the fish should be. Casting across the wind towards the far margin has brought me



## 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](mailto:info@thefriendlyfisherman.co.uk) with your contact phone number and Andy will call you back and discuss details.





Coarse Fisheries

<b>Beaver Farm Fishery</b> Eastbourne Road Newchapel, Lingfield RH7 6HL	<b>01342 324006 / 07710 656041</b>
<b>Charlies Lakes</b> Steeds Lane, Kingsnorth, Ashford TN26 1NH	<b>07857 539785</b>
<b>Chequertree Trout and Coarse Fishery</b> Bethersden, Near Ashford TN26 3JR	<b>01233 820078</b>
<b>Claygate Lakes</b> Collier Street, Claygate, Marden TN12 9PL	<b>07770 513448</b>
<b>Coombewood Fishery</b> Redbrook Street High Halden, Near Ashford TN26 3JH	<b>07895 679569</b>
<b>Elphicks Fisheries</b> Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden TN12 8EL	<b>01580 212512</b>
<b>Eureka Fishery</b> Nicholas Road Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN25 4AG	<b>07597 879621</b>
<b>Frant Lakes</b> Hawkenbury Road Bells Yew Green, Tunbridge Wells TN3 9AP	<b>01892 616424</b>
<b>Furnace Brook Fishery and Fish Farm</b> Trolliloes, Cowbeech, near Hailsham BN27 4QR	<b>01435 830835</b>
<b>Gabriels Fishery</b> Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP	<b>07730 066088</b>
<b>Greenacres Farm Fishery</b> Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden TN27 8EH	<b>07933 934942</b>
<b>Hartley Lands Fishery</b> Swattenden Lane, Cranbrook TN17 3PS	<b>07703 825064</b>
<b>Hawkhurst Fish Farm</b> Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	<b>01580 753813</b>
<b>Horam Manor Fishery</b> Horam Manor Farm Horam TN21 0JB	<b>01323 840889 / 07707 759364</b>
<b>Iden Wood Fishery</b> Coldharbour Lane Iden, Rye TN31 7UT	<b>01797 280180 / 07906 232225</b>
<b>Knightingales Fishery</b> Stone-In-Oxney, Near Tenterden TN30 7HA	<b>07941 176205</b>
<b>Mousehole Lakes</b> Maidstone Road Nettlestead, Near Paddock Wood ME18 5HR	<b>07725 783405</b>
<b>Orchard Place Farm Fishery</b> Pearsons Green Road Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6NY	<b>01892 838576</b>
<b>Sandwich Lakes Coarse Fishery</b> Sandwich Ash Road (A257) Near Canterbury CT3 2DA	<b>07936 409912</b>
<b>Shirkoak Fishery</b> Bethersden Road, Woodchurch, Ashford TN26 3PZ	<b>07973 410973</b>
<b>The Lakes at Beachborough</b> Beachborough Park Newington, Near Folkestone CT18 8BW	<b>07469 809877</b>
<b>Tricklebrook Fishery</b> Colts Hill, Five Oak Green TN12 6SH	<b>07743 955812</b>
<b>Willows Angling Centre</b> Bax Farm, Lower Road, Teynham ME9 9BU	<b>01795 520887</b>
<b>Wylands Farm</b> Wylands Farm, Powdermill Lane, Battle TN33 0SU	<b>01424 893394</b>

Trout Fisheries

<b>Brick Farm Lakes</b> Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux BN27 4RS	<b>01323 832615</b>
<b>Cinder Hill Fly Fishing</b> Membership available from: Email: <a href="mailto:les.everard@yahoo.co.uk">les.everard@yahoo.co.uk</a>	<b>01892 770903</b>
<b>Coltsford Mill Trout Fishery &amp; Fly Tackle shop</b> Mill Lane, Oxted, Surrey RH8 9DG	<b>01883 715666 / 07798 605867</b>
<b>Spring Hill Trout Waters</b> Albans Farm, Romford Road, Pembury TN2 4BB	<b>07951 304515</b>
<b>Tenterden Trout Waters</b> Coombe Farm, Chennell Park Road TN30 6XA <a href="http://www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk">www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk</a>	<b>01580 763201</b>

Tackle & Bait Supplies

<b>Absolute Tackle</b> 12 Wealden Forest Park Herne Common, Kent CT6 7LQ	<b>01227 636724 / 07809 330854</b>
<b>Angling Specialist (ASH)</b> 29 Queen Street, Horsham RH13 5AA	<b>01403 264644</b>
<b>A.R. Tackle</b> 8, Castle Street, Hastings TN34 3DY	<b>01424 422094</b>
<b>Arun Angling Centre</b> The Old Blacksmiths Yard Water Lane, Angmering BN16 4EP	<b>01903 770099</b>
<b>Bodle Angling</b> Cuckfield Road, Burgess Hill RH15 8RE	<b>01444 247757</b>

<b>Camos Carp Cabin</b> 11 Turner Street, Ramsgate CT11 8NJ	<b>01843 581784</b>
<b>Crowborough Tackle</b> Shop 2, Lexden Lodge, Crowborough Hill Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2EG	<b>01892 667671</b>
<b>Dens Tackle</b> 73 Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6JN	<b>01303 267053</b>
<b>Eastbourne Aquarium &amp; Reptile Centre</b> 19-21 Seaside, Eastbourne BN21 3PP	<b>01323 730635</b>
<b>Gabriels Fishery Tackle Shop</b> Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 5PP	<b>07730 066088</b>
<b>Henfold Bait &amp; Tackle</b> Henfold Lakes Henfold Lane, Newdigate, Dorking RH5 4RW	<b>07956 043922</b>
<b>Jack Frost</b> Reynolds Place, West Green, Crawley RH11 7HB	<b>01293 521186</b>
<b>Just Fishing Tackle</b> 22, Marion Crescent, Orpington BR5 2DD	<b>01689 637477</b>
<b>Kent Tackle</b> Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	<b>01580 754422</b>
<b>Medway Tackle Supplies</b> 11 Twydall Green, Gillingham ME8 6JY	<b>01634 475260</b>
<b>MFC Outdoor Store</b> 9 Station Road, Hailsham BN27 2BE	<b>01323 846883</b>
<b>NJ Tackle</b> 150 Milton Road, Gravesend DA12 2RG	<b>01474 353998</b>
<b>Orchard Tackle</b> 58 High Brooms Road Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9DB	<b>07494 670328</b>
<b>Pinions Baits</b> 431 London Road, Ditton, Aylesford ME20 6DB	<b>01622 718580</b>
<b>Polegate Angling Centre</b> Unit 7, Birch Industrial Estate, Eastbourne BN23 6PH	<b>01323 486379</b>
<b>Romney Angling</b> 59 High Street, New Romney TN28 8AH	<b>01797 362889</b>
<b>Sheppey Angling</b> Unit 5, Regis Business Park New Road, Sheerness, Kent ME12 1HA	<b>01795 661089</b>
<b>Shorties Tackle</b> Unit 16 The Glenmore Centre, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3FH	<b>07563 620368</b>
<b>South London Angling Centre</b> 286 Lee High Road, London SE13 5PJ	<b>0208 852 4451</b>
<b>Sues Tackle Cabin</b> The Spice Warehouse Rye Harbour Road, Rye TN31 7TE	<b>01797 225015 / 07980 290247</b>
<b>The Tackle Box</b> 251 Watling Street, Dartford DA2 6EG	<b>01322 292400</b>
<b>Tony's Tackle Shop</b> 211 Seaside Road, Eastbourne BN22 7NP	<b>01323 731388</b>
<b>Trade In Tackle</b> Maidstone Road Wateringbury ME18 5EH	<b>01622 814296 / 07941 085011</b>

Angling Clubs & Societies

<b>Bromley (Kent) &amp; District AS</b> PO Box 895, East Grinstead RH19 9ND email: <a href="mailto:bdas-kent-enquiry@bdaskent.co.uk">bdas-kent-enquiry@bdaskent.co.uk</a>	
<b>Cinder Hill Fly Fishing</b> Membership available from email: <a href="mailto:r.nathan@btinternet.com">r.nathan@btinternet.com</a>	<b>01892 770903</b>
<b>Cypry Angel Pool</b> Bexley carp syndicate membership water enquiries to Dean Bray <a href="mailto:dean.bray@hotmail.com">dean.bray@hotmail.com</a> /	<b>07843 272328</b>
<b>Fly Dressers Guild (Sussex Branch)</b> New members welcome Contact Simon	<b>07799 484166</b>
<b>Hastings Bexhill &amp; District</b> Postal enquiries to S.Corke, 2 The Sidings, Bexhill On Sea TN40 1RF Chris Pagan <b>07429 655237</b> / Steve Potter <b>07935 268174</b>	
<b>Linton Angling Society</b> Jason Tuckey on or email <a href="mailto:lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk">lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk</a>	<b>07983 569220</b>
<b>North Sussex Piscatorials</b> email: <a href="mailto:northsussexpiscatorials@gmail.com">northsussexpiscatorials@gmail.com</a> Parish Lane, Pease Pottage, Sussex RH10 5NY	<b>07824 443720</b>
<b>Tonbridge &amp; District A &amp; FPS</b> PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB Martyn	<b>07802 248861</b>
<b>Wantsum Angling Association</b> or contact via website <a href="http://www.wantsumaa.co.uk">www.wantsumaa.co.uk</a>	<b>01227 678063</b>

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24 hours : £40	72 hours : £100
36 hours : £55	84 hours : £115
48 hours : £70	96 hours : £130
5 days : £145	6 days : £160
7 days : £175	
Exclusive Hire up to 6 anglers for 48 hours : £450	

## KINGFISHER LAKE up to 3 Rods

Day Ticket : £20	60 hours : £80
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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