JUNE 2024

FRESHWATER & INFORMER



Sandwich Coarse Fishery

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DAY TICKETS AVAILABLE 24HR - £30 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.

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FOOD IS AVAILABLE ON SITE FROM MID-MARCH TO OCTOBER

www.orchardplacefarmfishing.co.uk

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



New to Orchard Place Farm! HORSMONDEN FISHING LAKES



All enquiries and bookings to Orchard Place Farm Fishery on 01892 838576

Hello and welcome to the June edition of the Freshwater Informer



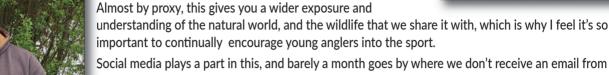
Where does the time go? It feels like for forever that we've been waiting for the warmer weather and now we find ourselves mere weeks away from the start of the new river season and the longest day!

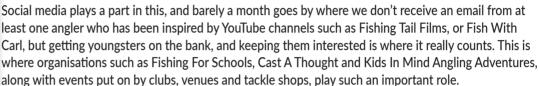
It's not all bad though, longer days gives many people a chance to fit in a few hours fishing, either

before or after work. My own preference is for dawn sessions. In my opinion, you have to go a long way to beat the serenity of watching a sunrise over a lake as the early morning mist rises from the water. And its not just the scenery or the fishing, been out on the bank at dawn or dusk gives you a chance to see so many things that may otherwise be missed in this modern, hectic world. I only get on the bank for a few hours every couple

of weeks, but even I've been lucky enough to see wood mice, foxes, badgers, deer, and a whole host of birds including kestrel, buzzards, red kites and probably most impressively, a family of white storks. I'm still

yet to hear a cuckoo though!





If these provide a gateway to fishing, it is our duty, as anglers, to reinforce their message and capitalise

on their good work. If you get the chance to help a youngster, maybe put away the carp rods and spend a day float or feeder fishing. Rediscover the species and approaches that got so many of us into the sport when we were young - you ENJOY. THE FWI TEAM. might just enjoy it. Have a great month.



- Fishery Reports A round up of all the latest news from the regions best fisheries
- 8 **Tench And Crucians on Float Tactics - Russ Evans.** Russ takes a trip to a venue he hasn't fished for many years, and rediscovers it's magic
- 16 Sussex Fishing Gurus Social. A report from the Sussex Fishing Gurus on a recent trip to Wylands
- 25 Parker Baits Competition. Introducing a new monthly competition sponsored by one of the most dynamic bait companies in fishing
- 30 A Time for Tench, Alex Coutts. A trip in search of the first tench of the season
- 32 **The Trout Informer.** Fancy trying fly fishing? Here's a guide of where to go
- 34 The Friendly Fisherman, Andy Lush. Fluff chucking again
- 36 The Junior Informer. Catch Reports from the regions younger anglers, including the winners of our monthly competitions
- 38 **Fishing for Schools, Warren White.** An update of their important work within the community, and a report on director Charles Jardines, Flyathlon attempt
- 40 Legends of The 60's, Bob Rolph. The man that in many ways started it all, Richard Walker
- 44 Medway Man, Bob Morris. Feeder fishing for tench. Bob also has his say on the closed season in his Piscatorial Politics column

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE publication CONTENT DEADLINE 20th May
JULY publication CONTENT DEADLINE 17th June AUGUST publication CONTENT DEADLINE 22nd July SEPTEMBER publication CONTENT DEADLINE 19th Augus **OCTOBER** publication CONTENT DEADLINE 16th September NOVEMBER publication CONTENT DEADLINE 21st Octobe **DECEMBER** publication CONTENT DEADLINE 18th November JANUARY 2025 publication CONTENT DEADLINE 16th December

The Freshwater Informer email: thefreshwaterinformer@gmail.com

June 2024

Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

Before we get into the catch report, we have some very sad news. The founder, designer and owner of Beaver Farm Fishery, Mr WHMJ Wheeler has passed away. Jeff purchased the land in the 1980's and started to create his vision, turning fields and water meadows into one of the first commercial fisheries in the South East. Everything you see today here at the fishery is borne from Jeff's imagination and the ability to see what few others could. He was also one of, if not the first, people to support this magazine when it started all those years ago. He was one of life's characters, a mentor to some and a friend to many. R.I.P Jeff.

Snipe Lake has produced some nice stockie mirrors to low 20's, Common Carp to 31lbs 14 and Mirror Carp to 29lbs 10ozs.

Westlake has seen lots of smaller Catfish out as well as 40's, 50's and a few 60's to 68lbs.

Jeff's Lake has been producing Bream to 6lbs, F1's to 6lbs, lots of new stockie Mirrors to 4lbs, Commons and Mirrors to 9lbs.

Daughter's Lake has seen anglers bank Commons to 20lbs, Mirrors banked to 22lbs 8ozs and Grass Carp banked to 29lbs 2ozs.

Eden Pond has seen Carp banked to 6lbs, Bream to 5lbs and lots of Tench to just under 4lbs.

Maze Lake has seen most anglers banking multiples of fishes, with Mirror and Common Carp to 9lbs 8ozs, Ghost Carp to 9lbs and Bream to 6lbs.

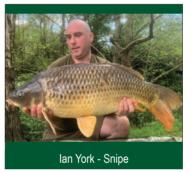
Majors Lake has seen Bream banked to 8lbs 1oz, Tench to 4lbs, Ghost Carp caught to 17lbs, Fully Scaled Mirrors to 15lbs 8ozs, Common Carp to 17lbs and Mirrors to 27lbs 1oz.

We issue a catch and fishery report on Facebook every Thursday and Sunday afternoons to go into further details of the anglers, their catches and all up to date news regarding what is going on with maintenance around the fishery.











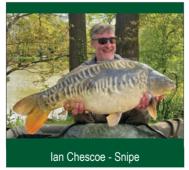
























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Facilities include:

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Seasonal Snack Bar with Hot and Cold Food

1 hut available for hire



Concessionary Tickets for Junior, Disabled and OAPs

No pre-bookings taken for swims

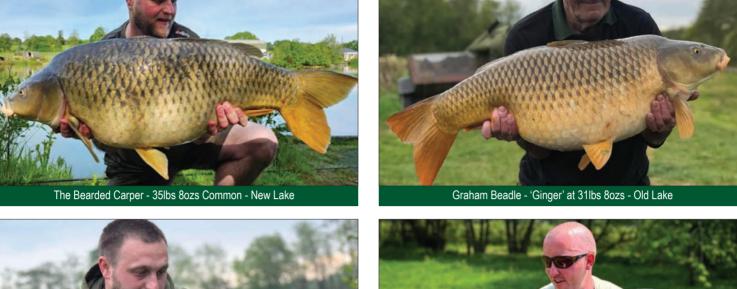
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LAKE RULES

- 1. A TICKET MUST BE PURCHASED BEFORE FISHING
- 2. ALL NETS, UNHOOKING MATS AND WEIGH SLINGS MUST BE DRY BEFORE DIPPING IN THE DISINFECTANT BATHS
- 3. NO NUTS OR PARTICLE
- 4. BOILIE AND PELLET ONLY FOR SPECIMEN AND BACK LAKE ALL BAIT WILL BE INSPECTED
- 5. ALL FISH MUST BE RETURNED TO THE WATER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING CAPTURE. NO STANDING. FISH MUST BE HELD LOW OVER A MAT/CRADLE FOR PHOTOGRAPHS
- 6. MINIMUM 15LB LINE AND NO BRAIDED MAIN LINE
- NO SACKING OR RETAINING OF FISH IS PERMITTED. THE REMOVAL OF FISH FROM THIS VENUE WILL BE VIEWED AS A CRIMINAL ACT
- 8. EACH ANGLER MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF 42 INCH LANDING NET AND A LARGE PADDED UNHOOKING MAT/CRADLE REGARDLESS OF TARGET SPECIES ON SPECIMEN AND BACK LAKE
- 9. BARBLESS HOOKS ONLY
- 10. NO LEAD CORE, NO FUSED LEADERS OF ANY KIND INCLUDING SAFEZONE

- 11. NO FIXED LEAD RIGS. ALL LEADS MUST PASS FREELY OVER LEADER KNOTS. RIG CHECKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT
- 12. RECREATIONAL DRUGS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IMMEDIATE BAN FOLLOWS
- 13. PLEASE INFORM FISHERY MANAGEMENT OF ANY SNAGGED TACKLE OR FISH
- 14. ANY FISH OVER 28LB MUST BE REPORTED TO BAILIFF
- 15. NO DOGS ALLOWED
- 16. BARBECUES ALLOWED IF OFF THE GROUND
- 17. NO BAIT BOATS
- **18.** FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY OF THE RULES WILL RESULT IN BEING ASKED TO LEAVE AND/OR BANS WHERE APPROPRIATE AND NO REFUND WILL BE OFFERED
- 19. TRICKLEBROOK IS NOW OPERATING A ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY TO ANY ACTS OF AGGRESSION OR ABUSE TOWARDS ITS BAILIFFS AND STAFF
- 20. ALL RUBBISH TO BE TAKEN HOME

CCTV IN OPERATION
OVER WHOLE SITE

OPENING TIMES
SUMMER 7AM - 7PM WINTER 7AM TO DUSK





Milton has still got it's magic

Recently I returned to a lake that holds so many great memories for me, that being Milton Lake at the Bury Hill Fishery complex near Dorking in Surrey. During my Bury Hill days where I was the tackle shop manager I also used to run matches plus fish them of course on Milton and hold fishing lessons for those that needed some guidance on how to catch those finicky biters the Crucian and Tench. I did a few magazine features on this wonderful lake for some of the nationals like Improve Yourself Coarse Fishing, Match Fishing, Pole Fishing, Total Coarse Fishing and the weeklies like the Anglers Mail and Angling Times. Sadly most of them are no longer published. I also did some filming on Milton with the late Kev Green for IYCF TV for a Spring Tench episode and on film I caught two excellent Perch of 3lbs 3oz and 2lbs 10oz. As well as filming a few episodes for my Obsessed Angler DVD series on the lakes various species throughout the different months of the year. You can see how much affection I still have for Milton Lake.

On 17th April 2024 I booked into Milton Lake to not only fish but also film a new episode for the Fishing Tail Films YouTube channel which is uploaded and available to watch right now. 'TENCH and CRUCIANS on the FLOAT'. It turned out to be a great few hours of fishing with two of my favourite species the Tench and Crucian as the target. I said on film that it must have been eight years since I last fished Milton but when I got home later that day and worked it out it was more like 13 years, blimey where does time fly.



The Milton Tench were in the mood to feed

An old friend reunion

I had driven past Milton a few times en route to my specimen Carp sessions on Temple Lake but this day was going to be like meeting up again with an old friend and it was. It is a very mature lake with trees scattered around the lakes with plenty of margin cover and lily pads, ideal for the tench and crucian fishing. My tactics were simple with a Drennan 15ft Floatmaster rod which is actually a combo rod that can be fished in two versions either at 13ft or 15ft. Today I opted for the 15ft extension piece as I was going to fish with a pole float and my choice was a Drennan Tipo 0.75g version attached to 6bs Gardner HydroFlo Hi Vis Green mainline spooled on a Daiwa fixed spool reel. Hooklength was 4lbs tied to a size 14s Kamasan B611 X Strong Wide Gape Nickel barbless hook pattern. I bulked 7xNo 6 shots some eighteen inches from the hook and then placed a No8 dropper shot 4 inches about the hook.

Using the longer rod was going to give me more control over the pole float especially as I was going to fish close in down the margins plus a line straight out in front of me. I always feed two lines minimum so I can alternate and rest one of the lines if I start catching a few, the last thing I want to do is concentrate on one line catch some fish and then spook them away giving me no other options to try. I started off with a 6mm soft hooker pellet straight out in front of me whist feeding both lines little and often with small balls of the Dynamite SwimStim Betaine green groundbait laced with a few 2mm pellets and fed over the top with some casters. The plan was to feed the margin line and leave alone for two hours and let the fish settle down in the margin swim and munch away to help build their confidence. The line out in front of me was producing some finicky bites but a positive bite saw a nice bend in the rod and my first tench of the day at just over 2lbs plus, a nice start. The margin line started to show signs of feeding bubbles and that was great to see and certainly lifted the spirits but I continued to feed lightly via pole cupping kit and resist the temptation of fishing over the bubbles as it was still too early.

The Tench were on the feed

Another cracking looking tinca tinca found its way to my net pan in the shape of a 4lbs 12oz beauty which was showed off to the camera showcasing its paint brush tail and teddy bear red eyes. I was also catching a few small rudd and roach on the pellet but the bites in the open water were still finicky and snatchy and with two hours gone it was time to move onto the margin line which was fizzing away nicely. I caught another tench on the pellet around the 3lbs mark but I got the impression that they might prefer natural baits so I decided to place two small red worms on the hook and the bites were instantly more positive and I saw my catch rate speed up very quickly whilst making sure I did not over feed. A few casters were flicked out every other cast and I lowered my hook baits and float exactly where I wanted to put it which was made all the more easier by the long rod tactics. I enjoyed catching more tench down the margin swim up to just over 5lbs which is pretty good for Milton as the tench go to up and around the 6lbs mark with a few in the 7s and 8lbs range. I was on twenty tench for the session but not a Crucian had incepted my baits probably because the tench were feeding so aggressively and bullying them out of the way.



Russ with the day's best Crucian at 2lbs 6ozs

The Crucians had arrived at last

The swim seemed to settle for about fifteen minutes and I wondered if the tench had had enough for the time being and then along came the up and down indications of the Tipo float, the Crucians had moved in and although the bites were less aggressive I continued to catch at a steady pace on bits of worm with crucian around the pound plus mark. It was fantastic fishing and a great return to Milton with my biggest Crucian weighing 2lbs 6oz. In the past I have had some fantastic crucian sessions in the past with a few in the big 3lbs bracket and plenty of 2lbs as well. At the end of the session I had 26 tench, 16 crucians and a few silvers and there was still plenty of the day left but not wanting to be too greedy, and I had more than enough footage for a video. I said my goodbyes but will be returning again very soon. There are also some fantastic Roach fishing to be had on Milton and come late autumn and winter I shall be making a video on the roach which I am looking forward to.

To be able to fish Milton or Bonds, as like in the old days, no day tickets are available anymore and you have to become a member of the Bury Hill Angling Club which costs £40 for a season and when you are approved you can then book online a fishing ticket for the date you want to fish. Prior to your visit you are text and emailed a gate code entry to the fishery which is from 7am onwards. You simply enter your gate code on the key pad, the electronic gates open and then you drive slowly down the lane, past Bonds Lake and just after Milton on the right hand side you will see a car park area. For more information on the lakes and how to join please visit https://www.buryhillfisheries.co.uk/

My next visit to Milton Lake will be soon and a Tench video on the waggler float will be on my agenda and there is a good chance that by the time this article goes to press it will be already uploaded to https://www.youtube.com/@fishingtailfilms So please feel free to give it a watch and if you have not already please subscribe to the channel.

I have some very exciting fishing coming up over the next few months and I shall look forward to sharing with you my exploits, catches and angling news.

"Tight Lines" and remember there is always "a possibility in every cast" Russ Evans



Greenacres Farm Fishery Biddenden, Kent

Please read our rules online before booking, for any enquiries don't hesitate to ring up and ask or drop us a text. We look forward to seeing you on the bank!!

Speci 1 Now that the spawning is over and done with this lake has come alive and has been rewarding people with some lovely fish which have all fallen to lightly baited areas fishing a solid pva bag over the top. The main goal in this lake is to keep topping up your spots with bait to keep the fish in your area as their metabolism to feed is a lot higher now that the hotter temperatures are here. Perch fishing on here has been rewarding to anglers that are willing to fish for them with some just shy of 3lbs. These fish have all been caught on float fishing tactics by using worm or magget on the hook and constantly sprinkling maggets over the top on every cast with a catapult to keep the rudd and roach in the swim that then attracts the big perch.

Speci 2 The carp in this lake have been coming out by fishing to margin spots with solid pva bags or a little pva mesh bag and using fruity or sweet boilies like cell. Catfishing is more dominant fish in this lake and do push out the carp feeding in your area, as they will eat anything. But if you wish to just target the catfish then the best method is to use high attractant boilies or pellet like krill boilies or marine halibut pellet over a large bed of pellet that's soaked in a fishy attractant.

Heron People have been having a cracking time on here catching large mixed bags of silvers and carp on both float and method feeding tactics. Baits that seem to be working is maggots, castors and worms over a ball of groundbait when float fishing and feeder fishing seems to be banded 10mm pellets.

Kingfisher This lake is the one to be on any time of the year as it produces lovely mixed bags of fish and keeps you going all day. Fish can literally be caught on the top two sections of your pole on any bait that you wish to use.

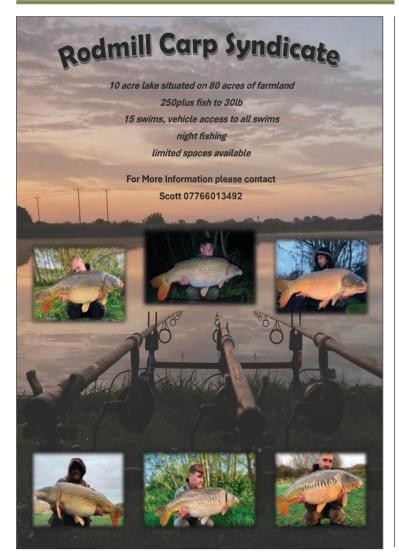
Bluebell Tench and carp are still being caught out of this pond and the key is to bait up little and often with a pole pot or with a catapult and add a ball of groundbait every now and again just to keep their heads down grubbing around.

Don't forget to dip your nets, slings and unhooking mats/cradles or you will be asked to leave. CCTV IS IN OPERATION!



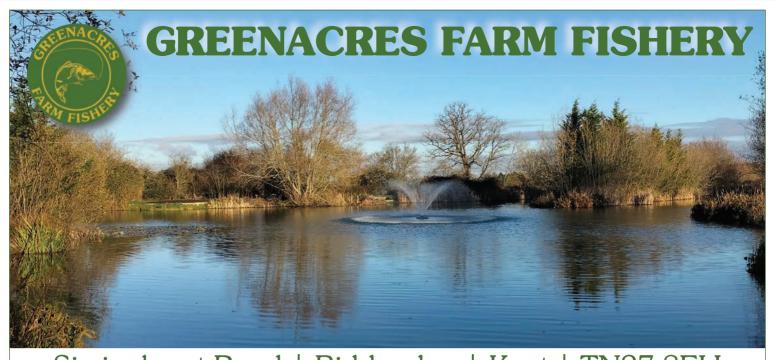












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Located on the Weald of Kent in Biddenden we offer syndicate quality lakes for all. There is one specimen lake for carp up to 30lbs+ and perch to 5lbs, one specimen predator lake for carp to 30lbs+, catfish to 60lbs+ and pike to 15lbs, one match lake with 22 purpose-built swims, one coarse lake and finally a tench/family pond. Facilities include a club house with toilets, shower and wet room. This beautiful setting needs to be visited and enjoyed!

Prices start at £10 per session on the coarse lakes. For the specimen lakes prices start at £20 for the day rising to £30 for a 24hrs ticket (up to 3 rods). Lessons now available for all ages. Gates open at 7am and close at 6.30pm (Winter hours 7am to 5pm)

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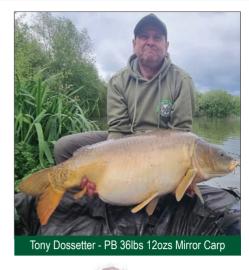
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Fishery Reports

Mousehole Lakes Paddock Wood, Kent

















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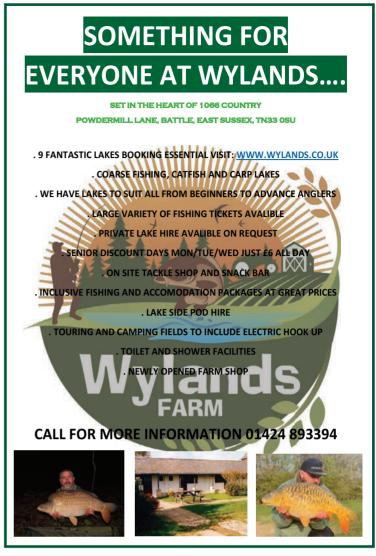
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FRESHWATER INFORMER

June 2024









FRESHWATER

Elphicks Fisheries

Horsmonden, Kent











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Sussex Fishing Gurus Social

The guys from **Sussex Fishing Gurus** enjoyed a productive social trip to Wylands Angling Centre, where they spent a week on Middle Lake.



latthew Smith caught well

on Parker Baits

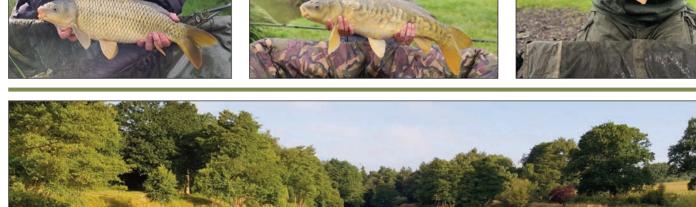
The team, consisting of James 'Big Fish' Lock, Kieran 'Lil Fish' Lock, Cal Arnold, Callum Packer and Matthew Smith, fished a variety of methods and baits to ensure consistent action for the duration of their stay. Although no personal bests were broken, and the fact that they had to

endure a midweek storm, the group landed numerous good quality fish between the five of them.











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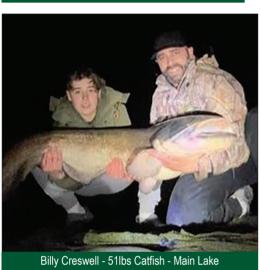
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Hawkhurst Fish Farm

Hawkhurst, Kent















Hawkhurst Fish Farm

Hastings Road, Hawkhurst, Kent, TN18 4RT

2024 Match Lake bookings

We still have limited availability for exclusive hire of our newly revamped 20 peg match lake. It is very well stocked with carp from just ounces to over 12lb!

Exclusive hire: £175

£10 per match angler (for 10+ anglers)

Get in touch now to check availability and book in!

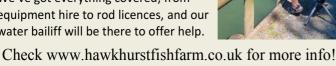
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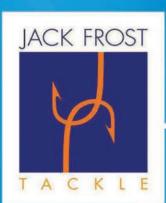


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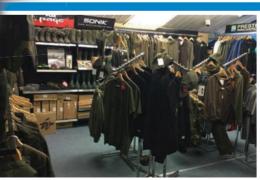
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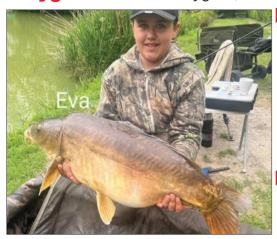


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Fishery Reports

Claygate Lakes Claygate, Marden, Kent



Lake Eva Nice one Danny on your 33lbs ghostie. Shout out to Bobby who has moved his PB from 21lbs to 27lbs 7ozs using FCB baits banked a cracking fish. Bobby is in the running for the biggest fish caught using this bait from this lake during May! If you know your TikTok creators you might have recognised one of our anglers who was fishing this lake for a weekend and even managed to make time for selfies with fellow anglers. If you know you know!

Lake Amy It's great to see 'Knock out' back on the lakes who's back in full swing after managing to get a few fish out over the weekend. FCB baits has again been working well on this lake. Regular

Matthew Good is in the running for the FCB prize after catching a 30lber with this bait during May. Field tester **Kevin** aka 'the goo man' is still catching regularly on these baits and even managed a banging PB mirror recently. **Ben** aka 'the slider' has had a few fish out as has Jack 'mucker' his mate, great job lads. Well done to **Leah** on your recent catches, it's been great to see the photo's! **Steve Hoad** who was fishing his home made boilies had a new PB of 25lbs, great job!

















A thank you to our Claygate Member **Becky** for sending in a lovely picture of your tench!



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LAKE AMY - Carp to over 40lbs





LAKE EVA - Match/Pleasure. Carp 30lb+ Tench 11lb+ Chub 5lb+ Barbel 6lb+ Perch 5lb+ Bream and other silvers





Chub 5lb+ Barbel 4lb+ Perch 3lb+ Bream 11lb+ Roach 2lb+
Skimmer Bream and other silvers

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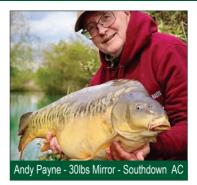
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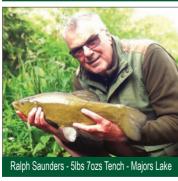
























ParkerBaits

ParkerBaits Fish of the Month Prize Winner



Although Personal Bests are exactly that, there are certain benchmarks that transcend the angling world. A 2lbs roach, 3lbs crucian or 20lbs pike have long been held as National Specimens. Austin Battell not only set three personal bests in the space of two trips at his local Barden Lake, but also achieved three such specimens. Using stepped up feeder tactics, his cocktail bait of worm and maggots was first taken by a new PB Bream of 13lbs 2ozs. Before he had a chance to let that fact sink in, his rod was away again, this time attached to a PB Carp of 45lbs. As if that wasn't enough, he returned the following week and bagged another double figure bream and a new PB tench of over 9lbs. Any one of these fish would make an angler's season, so to catch them in a matter of days make the achievement all the more impressive. Austin's success makes him a worthy recipient of this months ParkerBaits bait package.

This new competition is open to all species. To be in with a chance of winning, send your catches to **thefreshwaterinformer@gmail.com** Winners will receive 3kgs pellets, with matching liquid and hookbaits,

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26



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Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society

The Society has now joined CLUBMATE, so any new members wanting to join can visit our website to get the link or visit us via the Clubmate website.

BARDEN LAKE Fishing has been really good on here of late with some cracking Tench fishing and some big Bream and big Carp being reported. There has also been a big Eel reported recently. Alistair Attwater caught the huge Eel which weighed 6lbs 10ozs. Austin Battell has had three great sessions recently, firstly catching a PB 13lbs 2ozs Bream and a PB Carp of 45lbs. The next session produced Bream of 12lbs 8ozs and 8lbs 2ozs and on a third session caught another PB, this time, a cracking 9lbs Tench. All fish were caught using feeder tactics with 10lb mainline and 8lb hooklength with size 10 hooks using maggot and worm as bait. The Tench fishing has been the best in years with fish reported to 10lbs 6ozs. Lots around the 8-9lbs bracket being caught and Neal Rogers had a lovely looking 7lbs 10ozs fish. Archie Loveland had a nice mid thirty Carp and other fish to over 30lbs have been reported.

THE OLD BALLAST PIT Carp fishing has been really good recently with multiple catches of Carp up to 30lbs. **Kevin Smith** has had some great sport recently with over 20 fish to 27lbs. Pleasure anglers have reported some great catches of mixed species with Tench to over 7lbs and Bream to nearly 10lbs. Lots of nice silvers also being caught.

THE NEW LAGOON This lovely little mixed fishery is fishing great with Carp, Tench and Bream to around 6lbs bring caught along with some Roach and Rudd to around 10ozs and some small Perch.

HAYSDEN LAKE The New platforms have attracted plenty of pleasure anglers recently and mixed species weights have been recorded to nearly 40lbs. Plenty of big Bream and Tench and some

quality Roach bring caught.

LONGFIELD LAKE Not being heavily fished but those that are fishing it have been doing well with Bream and Tench to nearly 7lbs and the odd Carp.























Memorable moments at Shirkoak Fishery

Dan Stokoe, his partner **Jen Pocock**, and their friend **Sam Alexander**, enjoyed a session to remember at **Shirkoak Fishery**.

Fishing solid bags with goo'ed up hookbaits over a spread of freebies, the trio accounted for an amazing 64 carp, plus a pike, during their four night stay.

Sam took top honours with 36 carp landed, including a new **Personal Best** of 28lbs 1oz.

Not to be left behind, Jen landed carp to 24lbs 7ozs, with a surprise pike of over 20lbs picking up her hookbait on the final morning, Dan's fish averaged over 16lbs, with his best taking the needle around to 22lbs, to complete a session that all three will remember for a long time to come.

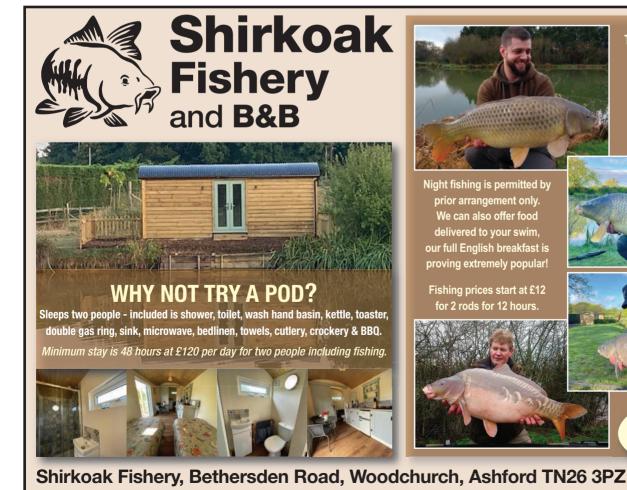






This beautiful tranquil fishery is situated

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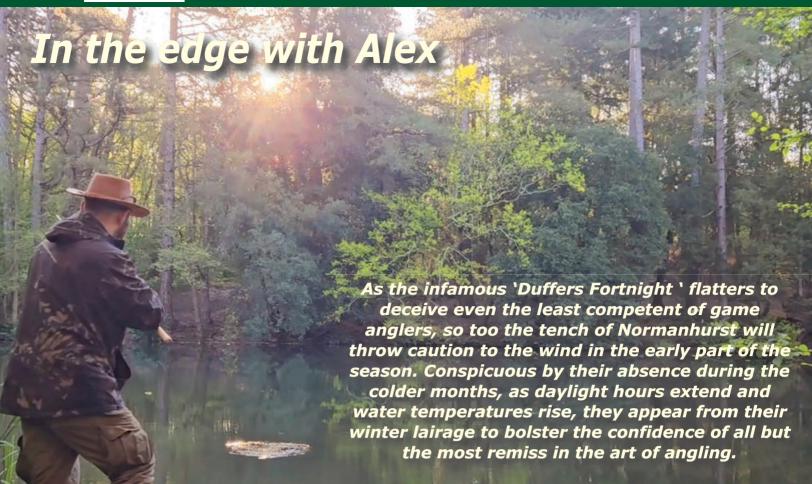
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I arrived breathless, partly through anticipation, partly through the fact it had been some months since I'd made the walk from the carpark to the lake. Remnants of a long wet winter clung relentlessly to my boots, slowing my stride to a stagger as I lurched along the path. I knew that this temporary discomfort would be worth it though, as I rounded the final corner to my chosen swim. I slipped and slid my way to the waters edge, depositing tackle as I went, drawing breath as the majesty of this place revealed itself to me.

Like stars in the night sky, pin prick bubbles shimmered across the surface of the dark waters of the lake. Swirls and vortices an occasional indication that deep below, inhabitants of an other worldly place stirred. And just like the universe, my optimism was infinite, my expectation limitless.



The fish plunged towards deeper water

I baited the area with a scattering of sweetcorn and stewed wheat, drawing fish in from all directions, before casting out. A comets tail of bubbles and silt slowly trailed towards my carefully placed hookbait. A single grain of golden corn, beneath a reed stemmed float. Inching ever closer. Instinctively I leaned forward, tightened my grip on the cork handle of my rod and engaged the ratchet on my centre pin reel.

The rising sun was still well below the tree line, beams of light causing the shadows to dance, playing tricks on my eyes. I shifted position to better see the bright yellow float tip against the ethereal scene. The bubbles intensified as my quarry reached the spot. The float quivered, rose up, before gently sliding away. A firm strike and the illusion of serenity was shattered as our two words collided in a flurry of spray. A moorhen let out a rat-a-tat alarm call and spooked across the shallows, as my first tench of the season dragged the rod tip into a fighting curve, and plunged towards deeper water. I let the fish run, enjoying the sight of the line cutting up through the surface, a shower of water droplets gleaming like shards of glass in the early morning light, as the reel grudgingly gave line. I clamped down on the spool with my thumb as the fish's initial run abated, heavy thumps transmitted up the line from the tench's powerful tail. A change of tack and the fish traversed the width of the lake in slow arc, travelling the far margin, past the point of its initial mistake and as far to my left



Olive flanks with black fins, the first tench of the season

as it could go. Twisting and turning, it rose up through the water until I could make out the deep olive flanks and almost black fins. I reached for my net and gingerly pushed it out into the lake, mindful that at any moment fate could intervene and my victory be denied.

All held firm, and as olive mesh engulfed olive scales, a calm returned to both me, and the water in front of me. I carried my prize to the back of the swim and lay it down on the unhooking mat, marvelling at this most special of species. Almost velvet to the touch, with teddy bear eyes and a muscular body dressed in tiny rectangular scales that terminated in a strong, shovel like tail. Nothing announces the onset of spring than tench starting to feed in earnest. Catching one has almost become a rite of passage, a ritual to be observed on an annual basis, to my summer fishing. Any season that doesn't start with tench, seems somehow incomplete and lacking in the proper order of things.

I fished on until the sun had breached the trees, with cause to disturb the silence on three more occasions, heading for home as the last wisps of early morning mist burned off the water, content that better times lay ahead.





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TAFORMER



Tenterden, the Trout have performed consistently from the start of 2024 to the middle of May. Many Anglers who have visited us have enjoyed their sport and gone home with quality trout which you can see in the photo. Our fish put up a good fight and often have them running to their backing.

We stock Rainbows, Browns and Blues from 3lbs-12lbs. The Trout continue to feed and the killer flies have

been Blue Flash Damsel, Cormorant, Buzzers and Pheasant Tail. We would advise to have an intermediate line on now that the weather will start to warm up and the fish will go deeper. We have 3 lakes (5 acres of water) and offer Catch/Keep, Catch/Release permits for full day, half day and evening. Kick back and relax in our comfortable Fishing Lodge where you can make a cuppa with our compliments which all adds to a good fishing experience here. Come and stay in our heated/comfortable Shepherds Hut where you can fish with 20% off our permits all year round.

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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

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!

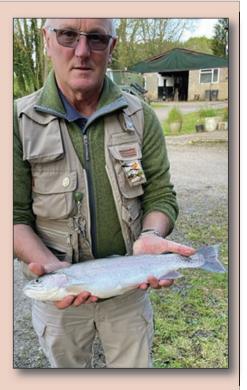
TO BOOK A DAY email: info@thefriendlyfisherman.co.uk with your contact phone number and Andy will call you back and discuss





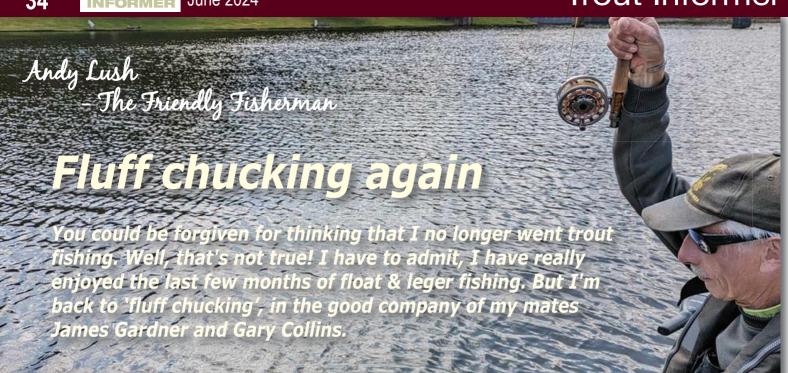
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Farmoor Reservoir, Oxford [OX2 9NS]

James Gardner and I always look forward to our trips to Farmoor. It may not be the most picturesque water we fish, but the buzzer fishing can be amazing, making the long journey worthwhile.

A strong south westerly wind was blowing down towards the causeway that separates F2 from the smaller F1 reservoir. Being spring, we knew we needed to fish towards the downwind shoreline. We also knew that to buzzer fish successfully, we should drop anchor. This would allow us to present our flies in a more controlled manner, essential for this method. Unusually, we both chose the same 'Lee Wulff Predator' intermediate sink tip fly line to present our team of three buzzers.

With the water temperature at eleven degrees 'C' the trout would be feeding on either the midge larvae [bloodworm] or the pupae [buzzer]. We've noticed, when fishing Farmoor the area where the concrete apron meets the natural silty bottom is the "sweet spot". So this is where we chose to anchor. After casting, we counted our flies down before starting the retrieve. Systematically we searched for the trout's feeding depth. The first fish is always the hardest to catch, once you've caught the first one though, it's just a matter of using the same "count down" again to catch more.

As expected, the method was 'slow and low'. For a change, James was going to keep some fish. This gave us the opportunity to examine their stomach contents. I was keen to see if they were in fact gorging on buzzers, as we expected? Surprisingly, the first fish we spooned was full of freshwater shrimps [gammarus], another was full of daphnia, while the others were feeding on very small buzzers. The fish as usual were fighting fit, it's not really surprising when you consider their rich diet. We caught steadily throughout the morning, occasionally sport would slow, so we would alter our 'count' to explore the possibility they had gone deeper, but we concluded that the shoal had just passed through. Sport would pick up soon enough if we waited for another shoal to come within our casting range. Eventually we move position, more out of curiosity, to see if we could catch elsewhere? We did catch in each new location, as long as we stayed close to the 'drop off's'. After a busy day's sport, we finished satisfied, having caught enough!



Hanningfield Reservoir, Chelmsford [CM3 8HX]

Gary Collins and I had been looking forward to our trip to Hanningfield for some time. At the last minute, James Gardner had decided to join us. He would be fishing 'billy no mates'. Fishing by himself would give him the opportunity to play with his new 'live view' echo sounder.

The reservoir was again hosting "Fly Fest", this event sees the introduction of some very "special" fish. This year, a large number of beautiful brown trout and a generous amount of large rainbows had been stocked. 'Fly Fest' is designed to introduce a new generation of anglers to fly fishing. With fly casting instructors, offering their services 'free of charge'. There were tackle displays by major companies Greys and Shakespeare, so plenty of temptation on offer too. This event looks like becoming a regular fixture in Hanningfield's calender, see you there next year?





As always, the weather determined our approach. With a strong south westerly wind blowing towards 'inlet bay', I was sure the fish would be gathered there along the downwind shoreline. However I wanted to explore the 'natural bank' first, before dropping anchor in 'inlet bay'. We drifted parallel to the bank, heading towards 'Church point'. The drift speed made keeping in touch with our flies very difficult. A fast strip retrieve or 'roly poly' was necessary to take up the slack line. When I can't use a figure eight retrieve, I'm definitely out of 'my comfort zone' and 'out of the game'.

By the time we reached 'inlet bay', we had both managed to catch a fish, but we knew we were skimming over the trout. Time, to drop the hook! As expected, James was already there, and had caught several stunning browns and rainbows. He had chosen this spot, knowing the trout would be hugging the downwind bank too. What was interesting was, he could see shoals of rainbows moving backwards and forwards along the shore in front of him, on his new sounder! He could also distinguish brown trout by the fact that they were swimming much deeper down. Occasionally one would lift up out of the shoal, and he would then get a take. Amazing!

Gary and I dropped anchor at the same distance out from the shore as James. Unfortunately we couldn't get it to grip. James wasn't having any problem holding his position. Being by himself, he was able to anchor off the bow, which offered less wind resistance. We needed to anchor broadside across the wind, to allow both of us to cast safely. This meant we kept sliding towards the shore, doh! Another downside, was the waves were hitting the side of our boat, and spay was coming in. We were both getting wet and cold, did I mention it was raining too?

Struggling to hold our position, and with no takes, we decided it was time to head for some shelter. Several boats were already in 'lodge bay' when we arrived. Fortunately, there were plenty of fish in the bay too. Gary connected with several trout on his reliable black and green mini snake, while I still struggled to make my nymphs work! It was very encouraging to see so many buzzers hatching throughout the day, but I suppose I was rather optimistic hoping these 'fresh' stockies would switch onto naturals so quickly. No matter, you can't win them all!



Powdermill Reservoir, Sedlescombe [TN33 0PJ]

Don't be put off by the fact that Powdermill is a reservoir. It's not a large water in fact it's less than sixty acres!

Powdermill is unique, I don't know another reservoir in England that has such a reliable hatch of mayflies. We are so lucky to have this special water on our doorstep. I was asked the other day "what makes mayfly fishing so special"? When compared to a trout's usual diet, mayflies are a large food item, available in large numbers, over a short period during May and early June. The trout become totally focused on feeding on these flies. To the exclusion of almost everything else, and will at times only feed on a certain stage of the mayflies short adult lifespan.

James and I looked over the dam wall, drinking in the view. We saw what we had hoped for, a gentle ripple, perfect for drifting. Our first drifts were alongside the overhanging trees

and bushes that line the shore. The mayflies that make this water famous were reluctant to make an early appearance. This is not unusual the hatch normally starts around mid-morning, rather than at first light. Occasionally a fish broke the surface, so they weren't deep and they were looking up! When I visit the reservoir in May I'm reluctant to use anything other than dry flies, such as the Grey Wullf and Golden Olive Wulff mayflies. I'm not a purist, but there aren't many opportunities to fish where trout are fixated on feeding off the surface. I tied on two Wulff mayflies James however had another idea? He proceeded to attach two foam bodied daddy long legs, one in natural brown the other in yellow! "Go figure"? Needless to say they worked, in fact for the first couple of hours they were out performing my mayflies, but why? James thought, by sitting lower down in the surface film the daddies would created a much larger 'foot print', making a better target for any opportunist trout to see. My mayfly patterns were sitting high and proud on the surface, which is the perfect presentation of the adult mayfly. Unfortunately for me they weren't hatching at the time!

Around mid-afternoon the hatch finally began. After the slow start, we now saw trout rising all over the lake, to the point where it looked like it was raining! We then enjoyed some of the best dry fly action you can experience anywhere!

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An early morning wake up call

When her bite alarm sounded at 5am, Layla'May Drury was quick to respond. Whilst most twelve year old would probably be more inclined to pull the covers up over their heads, Layla'May knew it could be the take that she had been waiting for. Fishing since the age of 4, she wasted no time in grabbing her rod and commencing battle with an angry carp. Despite it only being her second visit to Coombe Bank Fishery, she



rose to the challenge, landing a new PB in the shape of this superb 26lb common carp. As the winner of this months Sussex Bait Developments bait package, we are sure it won't be too long before she lands many more.

Arthur achieves his target!

12 years old **Arthur Guest** set his sights on landing his first catfish. The fact that he is a relative newcomer to angling, and the fact that many a seasoned angler has lacked the skill set to tangle with these powerful fish, he was



determined to put his plan into action. A visit to Orchard Place Farm, nr Paddock Wood, gave him just the opportunity when his hookbait was engulfed by this twenty pound fish. With a little help from the fishery bailiff, Arthur managed to land his prize.

An ardent Carl Smith fan, we are sure that he will appreciate a copy of 'The Simple Fishing Guidebook' signed by Carl himself, and put it to good use with his next target species.



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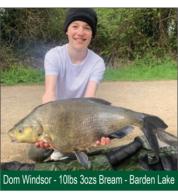










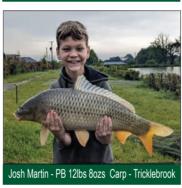
























Anglin&Anxiety









June update

by instructor Warren White

A couple of years ago, when I stopped running the schools programme at Fishing for schools after 12 years of building up to what it is today. Fellow angling coach, David Evans took over for a couple of years, but he now works full time at Rowhill school teaching to various years of the school and where I also work part time running the BTEC angling qualification with David's help. This is a school that F4S have funded over the years, for taster days, to give young anglers a chance to try fishing, but because fishing is very much a part of the curriculum at the school, and the head realises how important fishing is to the school, they fully fund the fishing courses themselves.

The new head coach at F4S Kent, is Les Jones who is a qualified L2 coach, I have known Les for some years, firstly, he is a nice person, a good coach and his hobby is Match fishing. He will do well. The Fishing for schools angling programme normally starts early in May as that is the time that coarse fishing seems to wake up after winter and after this year's cold end to April, it certainly proved a good time to start.

The Fishing 4 Schools programme is now under way with the Kent team already in the process of coaching courses with Thamesview school from Gravesend and the Maidstone and Malling Alternative Provision, which I hear is going very well.



RAIN DOESN'T STOP PLAY

I got a call recently from Les Jones, asking if I could cover a few F4S coaching sessions, the one that I could cover was the first session of a 4-session course at Shorne country park, with a local school, Longfield Academy. Strangely, I live only a few hundred yards away from the school but have never coached them myself. I was keen to be part of this first session as it was a school that local Fishing Tackle shop, The Tackle Box Dartford, was sponsoring this year. Being that it is my local tackle shop, and I was involved with arranging the funding from the shop, I was keen to take part.

We knew from the weather forecast that we would be in for torrential rain all day, which wasn't far wrong, but the priority was to keep the students dry. Thank goodness for fishing umbrellas!

Working with my two students, both novice anglers, our main objective was to run through the basics of whip fishing, plumbing the depth, casting, handling fish, using a disgorger etc, and to try and get a bigger fish, we opted to fish a method feeder to try and catch a carp.

The students really progressed as the day went on, catching a variety of fish including roach, rudd, and the Fishing for Schools favourite: perch. They couldn't believe how many fish they caught. It was good to see that both lads got the idea of using a disgorger and were both competent in this task.

It was a slow start to the session on the method

feeder, using Darent Valley, 1.75lb tc specialist rod, which has the necessary "backbone" for larger species and helps to be able to pull through the weed if needed, as the Long lake at Shorne is certainly a weeded lake.

We were using a mixture of pellet and ground bait around the feeder with a hair rigged, pineapple, yellow wafter buried in the mix, but after a few casts with no signs of fish, I decided to change bait to sweetcorn. On the first cast, as it hit the water a fish took the corn on the drop, soon after we had a nice crucian carp in the net. After that, we alternated between corn and a robin red pellet as bait, and we had a series of nice mirror carp throughout the session. Which certainly put a smile on the students faces.

A good tip when loading up the method feeder, if you find that the ground bait/pellet mix sticks to the mould when pushing it out, line the mould with a piece of cling film or a small plastic bag and it comes out perfect every time.



In between the various fishing sessions, we discussed with the students about the importance of fish care, and naturally the safety aspects concerning anglers when fishing; this is all part of our favoured Cast Awards adopted scheme. While talking to one of my keen young students, something he said stuck in my mind. He said I have always wanted to go fishing but because my parents don't go fishing, I have never had the opportunity, I am glad I came along today.

We would all like to give a shout to The Tackle Box, Dartford, for their continued support and contributions to Fishing for Schools and for funding our work with Longfield Academy.



FISHING FOR SCHOOLS NORTHERN IRELAND

Countryside Alliance Ireland and the Ulster Angling Federation (UAF) are excited to announce that Fishing for Schools will be coming to Northern Ireland in 2024. Which is brilliant news. In the FWI we get to see the work we do in Kent, but I wonder how many people realise that Fishing for schools are educational providers to 30 schools in England and Wales and soon to be Northern Ireland.

Fishing for Schools, run by The Countryside Alliance Foundation's Charlie Jardine, is a programme that uses angling as a teaching tool for secondary school pupils to explore core subjects like maths, English and natural sciences while getting them involved in a new hobby. Since its launch in 2007, over 3,800 children and young people from 140 schools across England and Wales have benefitted from learning outdoors and connecting with nature via Fishing for Schools. The programme assists students, including those with learning difficulties, by offering fishing-related activities as a way back into formal education and learning in the classroom, on field trips, or a combination of both.



A herculean effort from Charles Jardine, at a scorching hot Bewl Water on May 12th, in fact it was the hottest day of the year so far. This was the inaugural Flyathlon in the UK, to raise money for F4S to run fishing sessions with our Mental health groups.

The idea comes from the Rocky Mountain Flyathlon (RMF), a conservation fundraising event in Colorado, USA. With beautiful scenery and its legacy as a flagship county for fishing, Kent was an obvious choice for the

event. Participants in this Flyathlon first catch a fish then run a half marathon around Kent and Sussex's Bewl reservoir.

Luckily when I arrived early in the morning, I witnessed Charles catch his fish, then he did a guick change and was off on his run. We arranged water stops, strategically around the lake, which was much needed on this hot day. We were lucky that we had Bob Goble, F4S and resident Fly-fishing coach at Bewl at the event, as



he knew the area and was able to guide us to the water stops.

Charles completed the half marathon, which is once around the lake, in 31/2 hours.

Well done Charles. If anyone deserves recognition for all he does for his charity it is him.



Angling Societies



14 miles of River and 7 Lakes containing:

Carp to 52lb 4oz, Tench to 12lb 8oz, Bream to 19lb+, Barbel to 15lb 2oz, Chub to 5lb+, Perch to 3lb 6oz, Pike to 31lb 6oz, Crucians to 4lb 6oz and Grass Carp to 29lb 6oz.

Also large Roach and Rudd to 3lbs and large eels.

MEMBERSHIP FEE 2023/24 SEASON

Senior Membership - £70 + £10 Joining fee Ladies Membership - £30 + £10 Joining fee OAP 65 years - £35 + £10 Joining fee Junior Members £10 + NO JOINING FEE

Family Ticket (parents + children u16) - £100 + £10 Joining fee Flood Barrier Night Ticket - £175 + £10 Joining fee Student 16-18 years - £35 + £10 Joining fee

View the waters on the web www.tonbridge-angling.co.uk

PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB Contact Martyn on 07802 248861



Chris Pagan 07429 655237 Steve Potter 07935 268174 Postal enquiries: S Corke, 2 The Siding, Bexhill-on-Sea TN40 1RF

hastingsandbexhillangling.co.uk

The Linton Angling Society - Membership Vacancies

We are a small but friendly club with beautiful lake, 2 ponds, 5 reservoirs and over 8 miles of fishing on the River Medway and Beult.

Our waters contain Carp to 32lb, Pike 30lb+, Tench 8lb+, Chub 7lb, Perch 4lb and Roach to 3lb, including some good Bream and Eels. All year fishing, member's guest permits, night fishing allowed.

We run over 30 matches a year and have a large junior section. Concessionary rates available for OAPs, Disabled and Juniors.

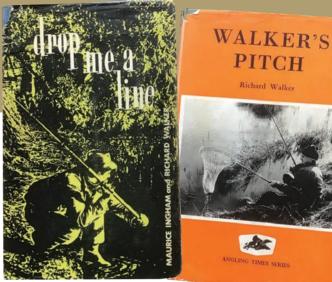
For further details contact: Jason Tuckey on 07983 569220 e-mail: lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk

The Golden Years of Coarse Fishing by Bob Rolph

Legends of the 60's - No.3 Dick Walker 1918 - 1985

Few could argue that Richard Stuart Walker (Dick, to us all), was not the most influential English freshwater angler since the days of Izaak Walton 1593-1683.

During his mere 67 years he revolutionised the thinking behind catching specimen fish of all species, with an ardent following of like minded anglers, all eager to learn from his writings in the many books and angling periodicals of the time. Most anglers of my generation have 'No Need to Learn' about him, as we all grew up reading his wise words and trying desperately to emulate him and his ways on the river bank and lake. However, since he has been gone now for nearly 40 years, few of our younger fishermen will realise the vast void he left in angling on Aug 2nd 1985, and how the way you fish today was vastly influenced by him all those years ago. Born in Hitchin, Hertfordshire towards the end of the First World War, he grew up modestly, but had a very good education leading to university and an engineering degree working first at the R.A.E Farnborough then as a director at Lloyd's



PITCH

Richard Walker

Two of Dick Walker's most famous books

Lawnmowers of Letchworth, where the early models moved grass at Wimbledon, Lords and Wembley. His home at 11 Bearton Ave, Hitchin was a mecca for many well known anglers who were welcomed there to witness where so much famous tackle was developed. He first fished for carp at Bearton Pond, where he met up with his mates and started writing about carp fishing in the Angling Times. In 1953 he wrote 'Stillwater Angling', his most famous work, where an account of his record carp capture at Redmire Pool appears for the first time. The day in September 1952 when he caught a 44lbs common, the largest fish ever caught in England at the time. Dick had many contacts, and could fish the cream of waters with his 11 mates in the Carp Catchers Club. Dick put his expertise as a graduate engineer to good use, and developed an electric bite alarm (The Heron), a deceptively simple device by todays standards. The Arlesey bomb leger weight along with numerous spit cane rod designs culminating in the MK IV carp and Avon rods, built by hand in Hitchin and later sold in kit form by J.B. Walker Ltd of Hythe Kent. (No relation). B. James and Son of Ealing then took up the design and sold the MK IV rods out of Hardys of Pall Mall for £12-19-6p each. I had a pair both from Hythe and Hardys, worth hundreds now, I wonder where mine are now?

Later on, Walker used his knowledge of carbon fibre technology, learned from his days at Farnborough, to develop fly rods in the 1970s, and his Farnborough Range is highly regarded in rod design for carp, barbel and tench too. Dick made his own split cane, working out the tapers, cutting the six sided Tonkin and gluing to predesigned tapers using white resin glue and string to make rods and landing net frames. He

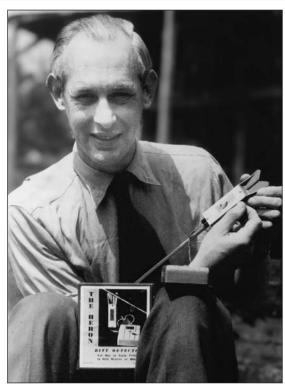


Walker was a specimen hunter of all species

discussed such ideas with BB and Maurice Ingham in books and letters such as 'Walkers Pitch' 1959, and 'Drop me a Line' 1952, and wrote a small book called 'Rod building for Amateurs' in 1952, which became a best seller. By the time he wrote the acclaimed book 'No Need To Lie' in 1964 he had achieved so much, and caught so many big fish, that his reputation was secured.



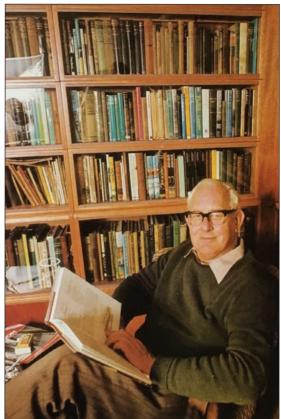
Battling a carp from the punt at Redmire



Inventor of the 'Heron' Bite Alarm

Windrush in Oxfordshire. He was also often to be seen on several reaches of the

Dick was primarily known as the father of modern carp fishing, but he was also an expert on the rivers as well, building a fishing hut on the banks of the Great Ouse at Beechampton near Thornton Bridge, where he and guests could fish for the large Chub, Roach, Bream, Perch and Pike. I went there twice where Fred J. Taylor and Ian Howcroft had helped build the 20x20 wooden structure in about 1960 on a bend in the river, it burned down 30 years later! On the Hampshire Avon, Dick and Fred had a caravan near Fordingbridge. and on the River Kennet a converted Pill box near Theale was used as a base for barbel fishing in the summer months. In the 1960s our Rivers were teaming with fish, non more so than the tiny River Bean in Hertfordshire, and good roach fell to walkers rod, also on the

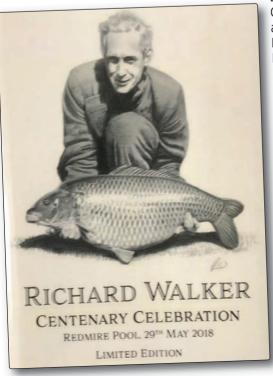


Dick in his study at Hitchen

Hampshire Avon and at the Royalty Fishery in Christchurch, where his barbel catches were outstanding at swims such as 'The Rushes' and the Boathouse. I once watched him trotting for chub down the 'Parlour Pool' where so many famous anglers have fished in their time, I could never afford to fish it.

Carp fishing, was of course, his first love and the branch of our sport that he is most remembered for, and it was at a lake in Dagenham where he first fished seriously for the species during the 1950s. He met up with anglers like Harry Grief there and the 12 members of the carp catchers club grew from these encounters and from his vast correspondence during the 1960s. A letter from Dick Walker is a highly prized artefact today, and I have 2! He was always eager and on hand to advise and discuss tackle, methods and baits, and at Angling Shows and exhibitions in London and conferences he readily talked with all and sundry whether you were an expert or a novice. Dick was an avid letter writer and would help and advise anyone who took the trouble to contact him. Another aspect of his fishing prowess were the Perch of Arlesey Lake in Bedfordshire just after the war, when he discovered that fish up to 4lbs inhabited the vast depths of the old pit. He worked out a method to catch them and wrote about it all in the Angling Magazines of the time with his prodigy, Frank Guttfield. Dick had a weekly column in the old Angling Times, when it was a proper paper and cost just 6 pence! He was often controversial, opinionated, and political, but his wisdom shone through. We young anglers could not wait for Fridays to come round to read what he had to say each week.

Dick palled up with Fred J. Taylor, and the pair fished for carp at Redmire, tench at Wotton Underwood, barbel on the Avon and Kennet and carp at Rackley Hills, he never caught a catfish as far as I know, but did once have a very big eel! In latter years he took to trout fishing on the reservoirs and small waters, catching an 18lbs rainbow from Avington and many other large trout to his fly rod. I once fished next to him at Grafham Water in the 1970s on the bank at Gaynes Cove where he gave me some flies to try.



Celebrating the life of Dick Walker

Dicks group, the Carp Catchers Club was, to all intents and purposes, the very first 'Specimen Group'. Founded by him in the 1950s to fish at Redmire Pool. All were very famous carp anglers of the day, although few had even caught a fish much over 20lbs at the time. The British record stood at just 26lbs from Mapperley reservoir, until Peter Thomas and Bob Richards and Dick himself all caught larger fish from Bernithan court in 51 and 52. Peter Thomas was his best mate in Hitchin, and was with him that memorable night in September 1952 when he caught the mighty common carp 'Clarissa' from Redmire Pool. In latter years Fred J.Taylor and Fred Buller were angling associates of Dick on various expeditions far and wide. I met him on 3 occasions mostly on the trout reservoirs, I don't think that he ever fished at Bewl, but I know he fished at Darwell in Sussex a few times in the 1970s coz I saw him there!

Quite what he would make of carp fishing today I don't quite know. He started it all off after all! He would love the modern rigs and tackle, but baits I'm not too sure. He would love the internet and ipad, and would have encouraged the youngsters to start at the bottom catching small roach and perch on float from local ponds, then to graduate up through the species, culminating in the quest for a giant carp once you had learnt your watercraft. Considering his high standing in the angling world, it was very surprising that he never received an honour in recognition of his services to the sport. A Knighthood would have been appropriate seeing that many other lesser anglers in the past have received the MBE and above. His untimely death from cancer at the relatively young age of 67 obviously contributed to this oversight 40 years ago. On the 100th anniversary of his birth on May 29th 2018, 12 of us met at Redmire Pool to celebrate his life and achievements, and plant a memorial oak tree in the Willow Pitch, under the direction of the late great Chris Ball and Roger Bowskill. A small book was produced of this event by Wayne Cryer of The Little Egret Press and remains a fitting tribute to our greatest ever angler.

AN OVERVIEW OF SANDWICH LAKES



Sandwich Lakes has grown steadily over the 20 years to become a complex where people can simply enjoy fishing!

Kevin Kileen explains that the fishery was originally created to provide an environment where fishing for everyone was available and encouraged. This ethos was the foundation of the fishery and is still very evident when you visit and walk around the fishery. On weekends and holidays there are families enjoying being outside fishing, talking, interacting, friends fishing, socialising and enjoying outdoor life. There are now seven lakes on the complex that really do offer fishing for everyone.

Kingfisher is a small pool with a good head of Perch, Carp and silvers. This reed fringed pool is easily accessible from the Victory Kingfisher car park and is ideal for the less mobile angler with swims in easy reach of the car park.

Berry Lake is a larger lake offering larger carp than Kingfisher and the opportunity to cast to islands and open water. The swims on Berry are cut into the bank, offering shelter on those windy days. Berry is really ideal for families as the flat banks provide space for chairs, picnic blankets etc. The lake is close to both the cafe and toilets which adds to the attraction.

Damson and **Victoria** are the original lakes that were dug where previously there had been strawberries. The two long lakes have become established match lakes and are often booked by clubs and every first Saturday of the month sees an open match held on both lakes. The fish stock includes carp to 20lbs, F1's, Perch, Bream, Roach, Tench and Crucian Carp. When not in match use these are the most popular lakes, and again the flat accessible banks and close proximity to the Waterside Cafe add to the attraction of fishing on these waters. Matches can be booked simply by calling the fishery and speaking to Kevin.

Meadow Lake is a lovely venue and is tucked away just down from Victoria and at the end of the caravan park and is home to Ornamentals, Carp, Bream as well as other species. This is a particularly good venue if you are after runs and the lake offers plenty of features to cast to.

Victory Lake is the original Carp Lake and was dug over 18 years ago. Over the course of time the lake has matured and offers some absolute idyllic fishing for those anglers who enjoy the intimacy of fishing the margins and casting to features such as reed lined banks, lilies and islands with overhanging foliage. The lake is picture perfect and home to carp in excess of 35lbs.

Trafalgar Lake is the latest addition to the collection of waters at the fishery and has been designed for the carp angler who enjoys fishing in a more open and weedier water. The water is gin clear and this combined with the weed will contribute to the growth of the 60 residents that the lake is home to. This theory seems to be correct as the lake produced its first thirty within days of the soft opening. Both Trafalgar and it's older brother Victory are available by pre-booking. Simply call the fishery for availability.

Elsewhere Sandwich Lakes is home to the Waterside Cafe and the complex also offers motorhome and caravan pitches. Lastly there is the tackle shop and again this has developed and expanded over the years and now offers a variety of brands covering everything from match, pleasure, carp and at times predator tackle. Apart from the tackle the shop also offers tackle hire along with tuitions and with the variety of lakes on the complex the tutorials can cover many aspects of the fishing hobby. Kevin himself has in the past won National Championships.





Visit Sandwich Lakes in 2024 Sandwich Coarse Fishery 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

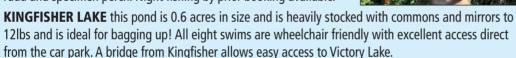
We can offer our visitors six coarse fishing lakes containing a variety of fish from silver fish to specimen carp. Matches and fishing lessons can be arranged by contacting our Fishery Manager Kevin Killeen.

NOW OPEN TRAFALGAR LAKE

Our new specimen water - a two acre lake designed to accommodate the angler who prefers fishing a more open, weedier water. Trafalgar has it's own dedicated car park and is bookable by ringing the fishery. Stocked with 60 carp ranging from 16lbs to 31lbs.

The lakes:

VICTORY LAKE (1 rod £12.50) 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.











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 - £7 Sundowner (3pm to 7pm) - £7 Rod hire (includes seat hire & landing net) - £6 Night fishing (by prior arrangement) 24 hours - £25 48 hours - £50

Holidays at Sandwich Lakes

All bookings



30 touring pitches with 16 amp EHU, toilet and shower block with disabled wetroom.

Caravans and Motorhome pitches
Caravan Club Site - £24
Main site PITCHUP from £28

Pitch fees include EHU & showers!



CARAVAN AND

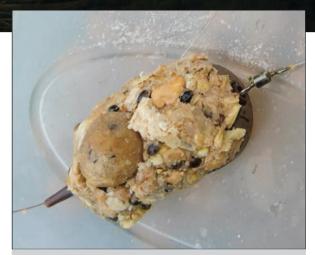
We also have a CL site for Caravan & Motorhome Club members

www.sandwichlakes.co.uk

Medway Man Bob Morris

ast month I talked about my use of the lift method for much of my tench fishing and this is my preferred way of fishing for them. The second string to my bow is normally some form of swim feeder style – which includes the use of pva bags, string etc., alongside a whole variety of different feeder types and set-ups.

All these versions/tactics have the intention of delivering a ball of feed or loose offerings into the required area at whatever range is being fished and to present a hook bait in the middle of it, taking into consideration the water conditions such as weed, silt, current or undertow strength and the potential for tangling on the cast. Sounds simple enough you might think but some set-ups are much better in certain situations. The classic example of this is where a relatively heavy feeder is being used with a very light bait such as a couple of maggots or grains of corn at range. Any form of cast with a conventional running end tackle is extremely prone to tangling round the main line, unlike with a heavier bait such as a large boilie for instance. The solution to this is making the hookbait heavier by pva-ing a stone or attaching a pva bag/stringer to the hookbait – which causes bait and feeder to stay apart during flight. Alternatively,



A method feeder offers tangle free presentation...

a method feeder approach can be used with the hookbait pushed into the feed ball. Another way to fish a light bait on feeder tactics is to use a rotating /helicopter type rig usually with a longer hook link – this is also a useful approach where silt, silk weed, or dead leaves are present. Some of the currently used flat feeders (like the Guru version pictured) are excellent as they are balanced so that they always sit on the bottom with the bait ball upwards which greatly improves the bait presentation aspect and helps to prevent the possibility of it disappearing into the weed/detritus on the bottom. Some of the feeders of this type come with a mould to push the frame into to ensure an aerodynamic shape. I find that this type is particularly good with small baits such as pellets, corn etc.

As regular readers of this column might recall, I have several types of homemade feeders made from hair curlers that



...and has very effective hooking mechanics

cope with a range of situations and this is something that I am still experimenting with, as there is always something to learn about bait presentation in differing conditions.

The new river season is almost upon us again and this year I am determined to start at the beginning, something that I have missed out on during the last couple of seasons due to a variety of circumstances. Regarding rivers and new stretches. I recently had a trip on a river boat on the lower Kent Stour. This was part of a belated birthday present and took in a visit to the Seal colony in the mouth of the river at Pegwell bay. It was great to get some good views of the Grey Seals and all the wildlife along the tidal stretch of the river. It brought back some old memories of fishing there with my young brother back in the sixties when we staved with our parents in a caravan nearby.

We were mainly catching Roach and Bream on the open-end feeders and the strength of the current when the tide was going out created a real problem for our rather crude tactics and I must say that I felt rather inspired to go back there and have another go equipped with my current knowhow and techniques. It would be interesting to compare results and



When you can't fish the rivers, the next best thing is to sail them!

yes it must be said a very nostalgic experience.

Finally, one or two potential customers have asked me recently if I am still doing the rod building? Well, yes, but as we are having major renovations to the house here at present, I have had to put any work on hold until later in the year - probably autumn. Also, the phone is disconnected so please email me if you have any questions on this.

I will let you know if I do get around to fishing the tidal Stour.

Best Fishes, Venues & Tactics, Bob Morris

Piscatorial Politics



With the new river season fast approaching and the closed season disappearing at a rate of knots, I thought that a few words on the subject might be an idea this time. This follows Stuart Allum's letter in the last issue of FWI.

Although I would dearly love to be spending time on the riverbank at this time of year to witness all the joys of spring unfolding, I have to say that I do agree with Stuart's assessment of the situation. I would further add that the bankside environment greatly benefits from the annual

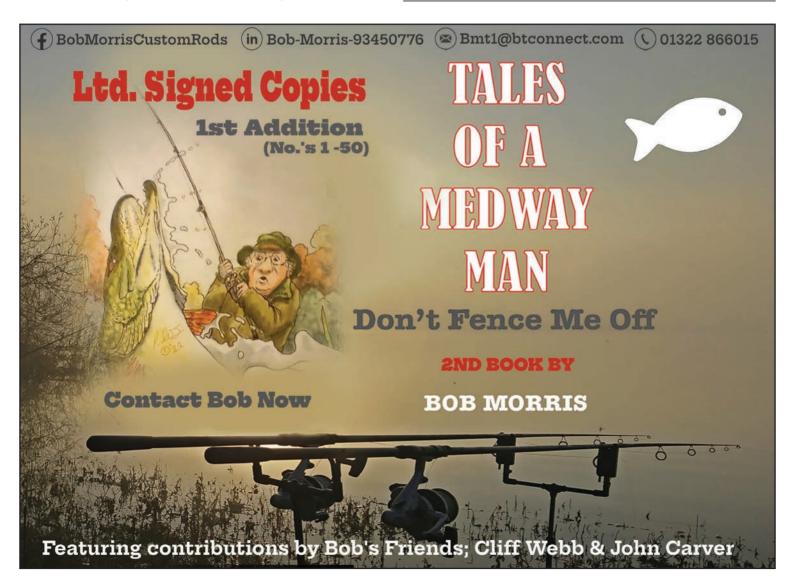
rest. It is of concern however that a lack of presence of anglers on the riverbank does significantly increase the risk of poaching of one sort or



another and although improvements are being made, we all know that the EA and other agencies are under funded and struggle to enforce existing rules/ laws relating to these issues. However, I believe that the positive aspects of the three months break strongly outweigh the negatives and it should be kept. I never really supported the

original decision to get rid of the closed season even though I could sympathise with the owners of commercial venues who needed the yearlong révenue. I was one of the anglers that Stuart refers to, who took up fly fishing during the break and a bit of sea fishing despite there being plenty of non-fishing related tasks to get on with during the spring months. As far as protecting spawning fish go, I always find it strange that waters are closed when carp are spawning whereas other species, tench for instance (and notably pike) are actively pursued!!

One of the great anomalies of what we call Specimen Hunting. Bob M



Directory

TO MINISTER COMPANY	
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
Chart Hill Lakes	0,00,00,00
Chart Hill Road, Chart Sutton ME17 3EZ	07398 571337
Chequertree Trout and Coarse Fishery	
Bethersden, Near Ashford TN26 3JR Coombewood Fishery	01233 820078
Redbrook Street, High Halden, Near Ashford TN26 3JH	07895 679569
Elphicks Fisheries	
Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden TN12 8EL	01580 212512
Eureka Fishery Nicholas Boad Konnington, Achford Kont TN2F 4AC	07597 879621
Nicholas Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN25 4AG Furnace Brook Fishery and Fish Farm	0/39/ 6/9021
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
Hawkhurst Fish Farm	
Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	01580 753813
Horam Manor Fishery	7 07707 750264
Horam Manor Farm, Horam TN21 0JB 01323 840889 / Horsmonden Lakes	0//0//59304
Grovehurst Road, Horsmonden TN12 8BQ	01892 838576
Iden Wood Fishery	
Coldharbour Lane, Iden, Rye TN31 7UT 01797 280180 /	07906 232225
Knightingales Fishery Stone-In-Oxney, Near Tenterden TN30 7HA	07941 176205
Mousehole Lakes Maidstone Road	
Nettlestead, Near Paddock Wood ME18 5HR	07725 783405
Orchard Place Farm Fishery Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood TN12 6NY	01892 838576
Pittlands Lakes	01032 050370
Churn Lane, Horsmonden, Paddock Wood TN12 8HL	07716 065900
Sandwich Lakes Coarse Fishery	07026 400042
Sandwich Ash Road (A257), Near Canterbury CT3 2DA Shirkoak Fishery	07936 409912
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
Willows Angling Centre	
Bax Farm, Lower Road, Teynham ME9 9BU	01795 520887
Wylands Farm Wylands Farm, Powdermill Lane, Battle TN33 0SU	01424 893394
	01727 093397
Trout Fisheries Brick Farm Lakes Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux BN27 4RS	01323 832615
Cinder Hill Fly Fishing Membership available from:	01323 032013
Email: r.nathan@btinternet.com	01892 770903
Coltsford Mill Trout Fishery & Fly Tackle Shop	
Mill Lane, Oxted, Surrey RH8 9DG 01883 715666 / Spring Hill Trout Waters	U//98 605867
Albans Farm, Romford Road, Pembury TN2 4BB	07951 304515
Tenterden Trout Waters Coombe Farm, Chennell Park Ro	•
TN30 6XA www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk	01580 763201
Tackle & Bait Supplies	
Absolute Tackle 12 Wealden Forest Park	07000 220054

Herne Common, Kent CT6 7LQ

Anglers Den 6 North Road, Pevensey Bay BN24 6AY	01323 460441	
Angling Specialist (ASH) 29 Queen Street, Horsham RH13 5AA	01403 264644	
A.R. Tackle 8 Castle Street, Hastings TN34 3DY	01424 422094	
Bait Bucket Tackle Warehouse Unit T	01727 722037	
Rich Industrial Estate, Avis Way, Newhaven BN9 0DU	01273 933050	
Best Buddies 28 Martello Drive, Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6PH	01303 487144	
Bodle Angling Cuckfield Road, Burgess Hill RH15 8RE	01444 247757	
Camos Carp Cabin 11 Turner Street, Ramsgate CT11 8NJ	01843 581784	
Chris Brown Products	01892 723670	
email: chrisofoaks@gmail.com www.c	bproducts.co.uk	
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 TN8 5PP Henfold Bait & Tackle Henfold Lakes	07730 066088	
Henfold Lane, Newdigate, Dorking RH5 4RW	07956 043922	
Jack Frost Reynolds Place, West Green, Crawley RH11 7HB	01293 521186	
Kent Angling Centre 44, Seal Road, Sevenoaks TN14 5AR	01732 905088	
Medway Tackle Supplies	01/32 903066	
11 Twydall Green, Gillingham ME8 6JY	01634 475260	
MFC Outdoor Store 9 Station Road, Hailsham BN27 2BE	01323 846883	
NJ Tackle	01474 252000	
150 Milton Road, Gravesend DA12 2RG Orchard Tackle	01474 353998	
58 High Brooms Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9DB	07494 670328	
Pinions Baits 431 London Road, Ditton, Aylesford ME20 6DB	01622 718580	
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 South London Angling Centre	01795 661089	
286 Lee High Road, London SE13 5PJ	0208 852 4451	
Sussex Bait Developments Falkenvil Fishery, Saltmarsh Lane, Hailsham BN27 2RJ	07971 303949	
The Tackle Box 251 Watling Street, Dartford DA2 6EG	01322 292400	
Trade In Tackle Maidstone Road	/ 070/4 0050/4	
Wateringbury ME18 5EH 01622 814296 Angling Clubs & Societies	/ 07941 085011	
Bromley (Kent) & District AS PO Box 895, East Grinstead RH19 9ND		

Email: bdas-kent-enquiry@bdaskent.co.uk

Cinder Hill Fly Fishing 01892 770903

Membership available from email: r.nathan@btinternet.com

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 **07983 569220** or email lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk

Tonbridge & District A & FPS

01227 636724 / 07809 330854

PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB Martyn **07802 248861** 07570 505934 **Wantsum Angling Association**

or contact via website www.wantsumaa.co.uk













SWIFT LAKE (Match/Pleasure) up to 2 Rods

Day Ticket: £10



KESTREL LAKE up to 3 Rods

Day Ticket: £25 60 hours: £85 72 hours: £100 36 hours: £55 84 hours: £115 48 hours: £145 6 days: £160 7 days: £175 Exclusive Hire up to 6 anglers for 48 hours: £450



KINGFISHER LAKE up to 3 Rods

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