

FREE



STEVE TIBBALS
25lbs PIKE - WALLERS HAVEN

Sandwich
Coarse Fishery

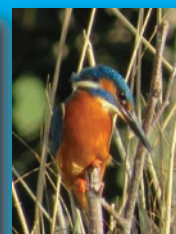
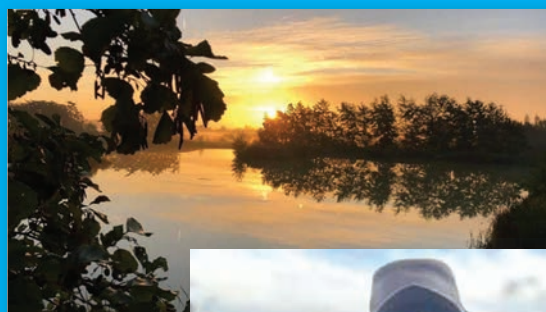


Tel: 07936 409912

email: enquiries@sandwichlakes.co.uk

www.sandwichlakes.co.uk

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





ORCHARD PLACE FARM FISHING

13 FISHING LAKES in the KENT COUNTRYSIDE

Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6NY

01892 838576 or 07860 608218



Carp to 49lb+



Catfish to 112lb+

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

SPECIMEN LAKES

DAY TICKETS
AVAILABLE
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.

MATCH/ PLEASURE LAKES

DAY TICKETS
2 RODS - £10
CONCESSIONS
1 ROD - £8

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



Carp
to 38lbs

Top Lake
Catfish to 85lbs

Bottom Lake
Catfish to 75lbs

Two beautiful lakes set in mature, peaceful Kent countryside in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Top Lake has five swims, Bottom Lake has six and both can be fished on a day ticket or lake exclusive booking

Anglers' mess on site with fresh running water, wash basin and toilet

Horsmonden Fishing Lakes, Grovehurst Road, Horsmonden TN12 8BQ

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

Hello and welcome to the February edition of the Freshwater Informer

The January weather certainly tested the enthusiasm of even the most ardent anglers.

Flooding followed by sub-zero temperatures, with a couple of storms thrown in for good measure meant that conditions were ‘challenging’ at best. Although there have been some surprisingly good results for those that did manage to venture out.

One angler who is always up for the challenge is Andy Lush who has rediscovered a passion for float fishing. You can read about how he’s got on, as well as his more usual trout fishing exploits, in his article on page 28.

Russ Evans is another angler well schooled in the art of float fishing and he looks at the relative merits of the technique versus feeder fishing as he prepares to target specimen tench on page 8.

Not everyone was up to facing the miserable conditions. On page 32, Alex Coutts reflects on a past capture as a way of motivation for the onset of better weather, whilst Bob Rolph

introduces a new series of articles on the trailblazing anglers of the sixties on page 16.

Bob Morris has used his winter fishing sabbatical to start writing a new book, all the while keeping a close eye on the latest goings-on in his Piscatorial Politics on page 36.

Lee Nicoll took advantage of the quiet banks to reintroduce a family tradition that, like so many things, fell by the wayside during lock down. A lesson to us all to ‘seize the day’, read about it in the centre pages. The Junior Anglers are showing how it should be done in this months Junior Informer, with some very worthy winners in this months competitions.

Add to that a round up of local fisheries, as well as readers catches, and you have the February edition of the Freshwater Informer.



Lee



Glen



Alex

FRESHWATER INFORMER

DATES FOR
YOUR DIARY

2024

FEBRUARY publication

CONTENT DEADLINE 22nd January

MARCH publication

CONTENT DEADLINE 19th February

APRIL publication

CONTENT DEADLINE 18th March

MAY publication

CONTENT DEADLINE 22nd April

JUNE publication

CONTENT DEADLINE 20th May

JULY publication

CONTENT DEADLINE 17th June

AUGUST publication

CONTENT DEADLINE 22nd July

SEPTEMBER publication

CONTENT DEADLINE 19th August

OCTOBER publication

CONTENT DEADLINE 16th September

NOVEMBER publication

CONTENT DEADLINE 21st October

DECEMBER publication

CONTENT DEADLINE 18th November

JANUARY 2025 publication

CONTENT DEADLINE 16th December

HAVE A GREAT MONTH,
THE F.W.I TEAM

The Freshwater Informer

12 Marigold Avenue, Horebeech Lane, Horam TN21 9DF

email: thefreshwaterinformer@gmail.com

Advertising – Lee 0787 3203998

Catch reports – Alex 07484 699437



COPY DEADLINE for MARCH 2024

MONDAY 19th February 2024 at 5pm

The Freshwater Informer cannot accept responsibility for the quality of goods or services advertised in this publication. All views expressed are those of the contributors concerned. All images received are accepted as being true and accurate and as described.



We opened our doors at the end of 2016 in Sparrows Green, Wadhurst. Bowie is a very experienced professional barber, whether it's a traditional scissor cut or a modern fade, we cater to all styles and ages. Toddlers can enjoy a haircut in our vintage fire engine while adults can enjoy the refreshments and free WiFi. We have parking right outside and plenty more on the street, no appointment needed just come in and take a seat!

For opening times please see website

01892 783 130 • www.bowiesbarbershop.com



- MENS CUT £14
- CLIPPER CUT £10
- BOYS CUT (AGE 12-16) £12
- KIDS CUT (UP TO AGE 12) £10
- OAPs £12
- BEARD TRIM (FREE WITH HAIRCUT) £4
- PAYMENT BY CASH ONLY

Bowies Barber Shop
Davies Place, Sparrows Green
Wadhurst TN5 6TE



Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

PLEASE NOTE:- To fish Snipe Lake, Westlake (formerly Tuscany Lake) Daughters Lake and Majors Lake there are certain tackle requirements in force. Please call or look on our website at beaverfarmfishery.co.uk. All anglers on Westlake will be required to have a dedicated Catfish mat and you are now required to have a large unhooking mat and minimum 36 inch net to fish Majors Lake. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

Hello all, well what can we say about the fishery since the last report. We have been battling the weather once again but this time we have had a mix of strong winds, snow and freezing temperatures. The strong winds that came in caused Ben and I some extra work that we could of done without. As usual we had to spend more time than we would of liked removing branches and bows from the lakes, roads and pathways but the biggest issue was a fallen tree across the road that we had just repaired towards Daughters Lake and Eden Pond. That tree alone cost us both over a day to remove but now both Daughters Lake and Eden Pond are accessible and fishable. After the strong winds battered us we then have had to contend with minus temperatures and as I write this, Saturday 20th January, all of our lakes have an icy lid on them. Even with our paddle wheel aerators working around the clock, the lakes were still freezing over! Crazy. Sadly, the forecast for the coming week is for rain and strong winds of up to 58mph so Ben and I will again be clearing whatever the strong winds throw at us. Mother Nature is certainly showing us who the boss is that's for sure.

Before the chaos of the wind and freezing temperatures there was a few fish caught. **Snipe Lake** produced a couple of lost fish and fish banked to low 20's, **Westlake** saw a few cats banked to 33lbs and **Jeff's Lake** saw some small carp and silvers banked. **Majors Lake** produced some nice bream to just over 7lbs and carp to low doubles while **Maze Lake** saw mostly silvers but a few small carp banked. **Daughters Lake** has had only 2 anglers on it since we re-opened it after the tree clearance with nothing banked and **Eden Pond** is yet to have any anglers on so far this year, due to it being a mainly tench pond, most anglers are aware they won't want to play ball until it warms up.

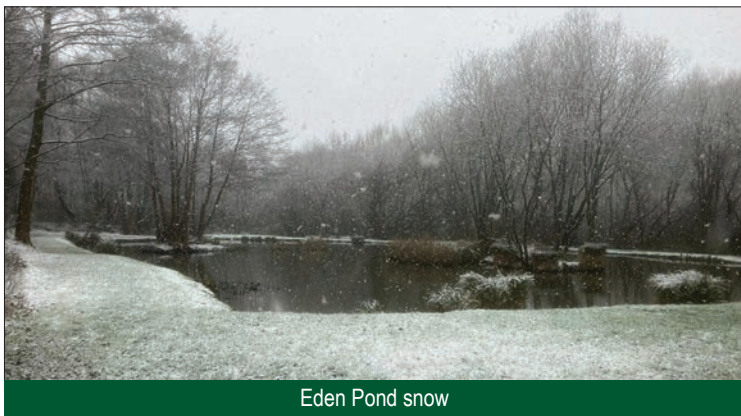
Fingers crossed Mother Nature treats us a little better this coming month and Ben and I can get on with our usual maintenance work readying the fishery for spring instead of clearing more fallen trees in and out of the water. It all seems to be one step forward and two steps back at the moment but it won't be long before the thermals can be left in the drawer and the sun will shine down on us once again.



Dean Aldridge - 25lbs - Westlake



Martin Smith - 33lbs - Westlake



Eden Pond snow



Majors Lake aerator



Darren Giffen - Snipe Lake



Deklan Skanes - 13lbs - Majors Lake



Terry Edwards - 7lbs 1oz - Majors Lake



Furnace Brook
... naturally inspiring

"A piece of
angling heaven"

River-fed 5acre lake with a range
of specimen fish including:

- Tench (5lbs +)
- Perch (3lbs +)
- Roach & Rudd (2lbs +)
- Bream
- Barbel
- Carp (up to 25lbs)

Furnace Brook CIC is a Certified
Gold Standard Member of the
UN's Generation Restoration



UNITED NATIONS DECAD
ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION
2021-2030



furnacebrook.co.uk/fishing

01435 830 835

enquiries@furnacebrook.co.uk

Trolliloes Lane, Trolliloes, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 4QR

Batsford Hollow

For group overnight stays

Facilities:

- 8 secluded & spacious
swims
- Bespoke overnight shelters
- Catering facilities
- Showers

Main Lake

Day & overnight tickets

Facilities:

- 16 easy access, spacious &
secluded swims
- Parking close to lake
- Catering facilities
- Showers



Eastbourne Road (A22),
Newchapel, Lingfield, Surrey RH7 6HL

Tel: 01342 324006

Mobile: 07710 656041

www.beaverfarmfishery.co.uk

Email:

beaverfarmfishery@live.co.uk

Facebook: beaverfishery



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:

- On Site Tackle Shop
- 9 Car Parks including
Disabled Friendly Parking
- Shower/Wetroom
- Disabled Friendly Toilets
- 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

Win a FREE SESSION with
our Fish of the Month
Competition

Automatic Security Gates
that close at 7pm (Summer)
6pm (Winter)

24-hour CCTV

Elphicks Fisheries



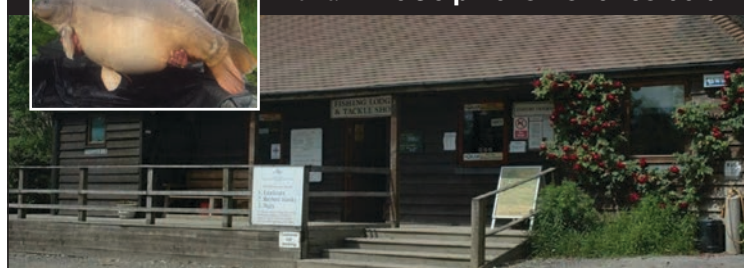
Elphicks has been designed and built with the modern angler in mind. We have 7 lakes available for day ticket and session fishing. Each lake has it's own parking within easy reach of the swims and all swims are 'all weather' - either built of Astroturf, stone or bark. Please contact the fishery for further information on any of our lakes.



Elphicks Fisheries Spelmonden Road
Horsmonden, Kent TN12 8EL

Tel: **01580 212512**

email: info@elphicks-fisheries.co.uk



www.elphicks-fisheries.co.uk

Hawkhurst Fish Farm

Hastings Road, Hawkhurst, Kent, TN18 4RT

2024 Match Lake bookings

We are now taking bookings 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

or

£10 per match angler (for 10+ anglers)



Get in touch now to check availability and book in!



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

www.hawkhurstfishfarm.co.uk

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT WYLANDS....

SET IN THE HEART OF 1066 COUNTRY

POWDERMILL LANE, BATTLE, EAST SUSSEX, TN33 0SU

. 9 FANTASTIC LAKES BOOKING ESSENTIAL VISIT: WWW.WYLANDS.CO.UK

. COARSE FISHING, CATFISH AND CARP LAKES

. WE HAVE LAKES TO SUIT ALL FROM BEGINNERS TO ADVANCE ANGLERS

. LARGE VARIETY OF FISHING TICKETS AVAILABLE

. PRIVATE LAKE HIRE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

. SENIOR DISCOUNT DAYS MON/TUE/WED JUST £6 ALL DAY

. ON SITE TACKLE SHOP AND SNACK BAR

. INCLUSIVE FISHING AND ACCOMODATION PACKAGES AT GREAT PRICES

. LAKE SIDE POD HIRE

. TOURING AND CAMPING FIELDS TO INCLUDE ELECTRIC HOOK UP

. TOILET AND SHOWER FACILITIES

. NEWLY OPENED FARM SHOP

Wylands FARM

CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION 01424 893394



WANSTUM ANGLING ASSOCIATION

River Wantsum · Marshside Lakes · River Stour



Day Tickets are available on all waters & memberships are now open!

For more information email: wantsumangling@mail.com or call in to Absolute Tackle, 12 Wealden Forest, Park Herne Common, Kent CT6 7LQ



Night Bookings and General Enquiries
please call on 07570-505934

PRICES

- DAY TICKET X2 RODS - £15
- DAY TICKET X3 RODS - £20
- 24 HOUR TICKET X2 RODS - £30
- 24 HOUR TICKET X3 RODS - £35
- 36 HOUR TICKET X2 / X3 RODS - £45 / £55
- 48 HOUR TICKET X2 / X3 RODS - £60 / £70



Book now on
Swimbooker



TRICKLEBROOK FISHERY

This fantastic coarse fishery consists of two very well stocked lakes.
A 4 acre specimen lake stocked with big Catfish up to 50lbs, huge Carp up to 40lbs, big Perch up to 6lbs and beautiful Roach over 3lbs. And a 1 acre match fishing lake teaming with a variety of species weighing up to 28lbs.



find us on facebook and instagram
[FACEBOOK.COM/TRICKLEBROOKFISHERY](https://www.facebook.com/tricklebrookfishery)



Open from 7am 365 days a year!
A UK CARP TOP 100 FISHERY - BOOK NOW!
[tricklebrookfishery.co.uk](https://www.tricklebrookfishery.co.uk)

TEL 07743 955812 | 01892 835453 | EMAIL info@tricklebrookfishery.co.uk

Tricklebrook Fishery | Colts Hill | Five Oak Green | TN12 6SH

Telephone bookings are to be paid in advance and are non-refundable • Credit and Debit cards now accepted

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

7. 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



Flooded rivers give me the blues but Mr Tinca raises spirits

It seems every season I start off with good intentions about planning River Winter campaigns for Chub, Perch and Roach, only to see the rains arrive and completely wash away any hopes of getting in any decent fishing. The frozen cheese paste remains in the freezer, the big Korum Avon Glides stay in the float box and any plans for putting a Thames or Upper Medway Chub in front of the Fishing Tail Films cameras frustratingly on hold. I can only keep me fingers crossed that the rivers will be suitably fishable in the last couple of weeks of the season?

So until then I will be concentrating on the mighty Perch from stillwaters, a species I love to fish for but whilst that will keep me busy for the time being I am already looking ahead to Spring and that means the Tench. I have caught many tench over the years from a variety of venues around the country but I still am waiting for a double figure tinca tinca to grace my net. It will happen as I will make it happen so when I am not out on the banks fishing I am researching venues that are accessible and of course contain very large tench. One of my club waters holds big tench but at 75 acres and varying depths from 16ft to 60ft with an average depth of 23ft it is not easy to spot them fizzing bubbles. I guess eventually I will stumble across them because when you fish a venue on many occasions and long sessions, sods law states you will eventually come up trumps (I hope) I have had a few up to 6lbs plus mostly during the night but I do feel I am homing in on those big specimens (again I hope)



Set up at club water



This one fell to an alarm set-up

Float for shallow, alarms for the deeps

On my big gravel pit I fish for them with bite alarms and groundbait feeders with either corn hookbaits, red maggots or boilies with my groundbait mix containing hemp, pellets and particle in the mix. Of course the worm kebab rig works a treat when they move off the fishmeal based baits to naturals. A bunch of red maggots with a safe inline maggot feeder set up is irresistible to the tench. But of course being a bit old school I do love that float sliding under and watching the rod arch over to a nice bend of a hard fighting tench powering away towards to the weeds and margin cover, they test the tackle to the limit and skill of the angler. So when I fish lakes or slow moving rivers 12ft or shallower I opt for a float tackle set up and for those extremely deep venues a bite alarm set up with Shimano 6000 reels loaded with 10lbs line every time.

A step up in hook length gave me passion for tench

As a young boy learning to fish I would say it was catching tench that taught me the correct way to handle and play fish. I basically lived over Wanstead Park in East London back in the 70s fishing all day and every day in the six weeks school holidays catching good sized perch and



Russ with a 6lbs big pit tench

A Christmas Tench

Talking of the River Eden, several seasons back around Christmas time and with a hard frost on the ground I was catching a few nice roach and small perch plus the humble gudgeon when later in the morning when a bright Sun managed to melt the frost I hooked into a good fish which tried to snag me under some roots of a tree that overhung the swim I was fishing. I applied some side strain thinking it was a decent chub when eventually up popped a plump tench which was a nice surprise on a very cold day. I must admit I have caught quite a few winter tench these past few recent seasons which could be a sign that our winters are definitely not as cold as they used to be and the tench are still feeding long into the cold months if not all year round.

Just over a year ago in November 2022 I visited Billingford Lakes near Dereham for the first time for a spot of big roach fishing on a 48 hour session, the roach did not show at all in any size which was puzzling but the tench did. I am planning an early season spring trip there again but this time for the tench as the main target so no doubt a big roach will turn up, I type with fingers crossed. But sometimes that is how the fishing pans out but not that I will be complaining if a big roach does end up in my net. It is true that a majority of big roach are caught by carp anglers on 18mm boilies, in fact a friend of mine caught a roach of 4lbs exactly whilst carp fishing, always be ready for the unexpected and enjoy it when it does.

Time flies so quickly as each season seems to whizz by quicker than the previous and as I get older quickly to, my appetite to catch bigger and varied species increases which is why the lack of fishing the rivers every winter is more frustrating but I know I am not the only one that feels this way as I have discussed with many anglers the lack of river action seems to increase and even more so annoying is that come March 15th they will



Where there's one, there's often more

roach but every now and then I would bump off a big fish and crack off on the strike. My two pounds hook lengths were too light and I often lost the fish before I even had the chance to play it. So I increased the strength of the line, eventually and as I started to hook bigger fish (Tench) as I got more experienced through spending countless hours by the bankside my catch rate improving to impressive levels, banking a baker's dozen in one late afternoon on a section that was called the boards at this popular day ticket fishery. That session catching thirteen tench from mid 2lbs up to 4lbs 10oz (a day I remember so well as it was a PB at the time) filled me with so much confidence that I then started to venture to other tench waters in my local area to where I lived like Hollow Ponds, The Sandhills and Whipps Cross with much success my love for the this magnificent looking fish began. In those days a specimen of 5lbs was considered a bit of a monster so I was well pleased with my catches especially when I started to catch a few out of the rivers Lea, Grand Union canal and more recently the Eden where if you know where to fish for them they can be located in decent shoals.



Russ and an Xmas Eden tench

probably be spot on. Maybe there is another need to look at ending the river close season because I am sure April and May would be excellent months to fish our favourite rivers or at the very least let the controlling clubs decide when to allow fishing because all I know is that the river angler is not getting any value for money on their club memberships.

Being as this is my first article in 2024 may I wish you a fantastic fishing year ahead and if you are unable to get out on the banks and want your fishing fix please feel free to check out my Fishing Tail Films You Tube channel and subscribe as that spurs me on to make more fishing films as I have big plans ahead for the channel. In the meantime I am off Perch fishing in the hope of catching a new PB on film.

"A Possibility in every Cast"
Tight Lines, Russ Evans

fishing tail films

Greenacres Farm Fishery Biddenden, Kent

*Please note price change for 2024
– see advert opposite for details*

Everyone please read our rules online before booking up and any enquires, don't hesitate to ring up and ask or drop us a text. Look forward to seeing new faces for 2024!!

Speci 1 Fishing has slowed down due to the ice caps on the lake like most fisheries in the country, but before they arrived, we had a couple of regulars on Andy and kelvin that managed to bag a few carp out of swim ½ double. They fished solid pva bags filled with pellet and used dumbbell wafers as hookbait and waited for a bite at a time which seemed to be either night time or early mornings. Perch fishing on here has been rewarding to some anglers with some just shy of 3lbs. These fish have all been caught on float fishing tactics by using worm or maggot on the hook and constantly sprinkling maggots over the top on every cast with a catapult to keep the rudd and roach in the swim that then brings out the big perch.

Speci 2 Same as speci 1 in that it has been frozen most of the month, but the catfish are still showing out swim ¾ double to the right channel on lobworms. **Paul Martin** and his mate had two takes and managed to land one at 30lbs. Carp have also been caught out of here along the margins using solid pva bags with a light bait up over the top.

Heron People have been breaking the ice on this lake to fish and have had great results in doing it with a nice mixed bag of fish. Baits that seem to be working is maggots, castors and worms over a ball of groundbait.

Kingfisher No matches to report but this lake is the one to be on this time of year as it always produces lovely mixed bags of fish and keeps you going all day which is what you need in these cold conditions. Fish can literally be caught on the top two sections of your pole so this only means less ice to break.

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.



3lbs Perch - Tricklebrook Fishery



Charlie O'Leary - 2lbs 10ozs Perch - Tricklebrook Fishery



Mark Day - Pike - River Medway



Steve Marshall - 19lbs 3ozs Pike - Sumners Ponds



GREENACRES FARM FISHERY



Sissinghurst Road | Biddenden | Kent | TN27 8EH

Located on the Weald of Kent in Biddenden we offer syndicate quality lakes for all. There is one specimen lake for carp up to 30lbs+ 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)

SENIOR DAY TICKETS ON OUR COARSE LAKES HERON AND BLUEBELL ARE AVAILABLE FOR £8 MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY

To book, please call or text us on **07933 934942**

or visit our website **www.greenacresfarmfishery.co.uk**

Email : greenacresfarmfishery@gmail.com





Asa Shaw - Common Carp - Wylands Farm



Jake Trapp - 30lbs 6ozs Mirror - Chequertree Fishery



Mark - 23lbs Mirror - Tricklebrook New Lake

CATCH CULT

NEW

SUBSCRIPTION

AVAILABLE

NOW

www.catch-cult.co.uk

5 lakes and 1.25 miles of the River Eden

Toilets and shower facilities

GABRIELS FISHERY

Advanced booking available
Day & night session fishing
Camping & Caravanning facilities

SWALLOW LAKE & HARE LAKE
great for beginners

Specimen Lake ADMIRAL LAKE
fish to 41lbs

OAK LAKE
carp to 30lbs

SILVER
Match Lake

Well stocked bait & tackle shop open from 7am every day.

24/7 vending machine stocking maggots and worms

Gabriels Fishery | Marsh Green Road | Edenbridge TN8 5PP
Bait and Tackle Shop: 01732 865355
Email: info@gabriels-fishery.co.uk

www.gabriels-fishery.co.uk





Roger Lennon - Mirror Carp - Sandwich Lakes



Steve 'Hulk' Loder - 23lbs 6ozs Mirror - Sandwich Lakes



Adam Lane - 22lbs Mirror - Sandwich Lakes



Steve - Common Carp - Tricklebrook Fishery



Ali Franklyn - PB 2lbs 2ozs Perch - Weirwood



Jack - 27lbs Mirror - Tricklebrook New Lake



Jane - PB 32lbs Mirror Carp - Mousehole Lakes



Mark Norris - Mirror Carp - Sandwich Lakes



Jake Trapp - Linear Mirror Carp - Club Water



Steve - Mirror Carp - Tricklebrook Fishery

BODLE angling

Cuckfield Road
BURGESS HILL RH15 8RE

01444 247757

Opening times:

Mon-Fri: 8.00am to 5.30pm

Sat: 8.00am to 12.30pm

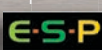
Sunday: Closed Bank Holiday: Closed



check out our Facebook and Instagram
for the latest news and competitions!

Romney Angling

Located in the heart of New Romney, Romney Angling is a friendly, local, family run fishing supplies shop that was founded in 2021. We pride ourselves on the hundreds of items we provide to fishing lovers around the country. Whether you're a novice or an expert, Romney Angling will have the fishing products you need, and our friendly staff are armed with knowledge to provide any advice or answer queries you may have.



59 High St, New Romney TN28 8AH

01797 362889

Info@romneyangling.co.uk



PINIONS FISHING BAIT

Open 7 days a week

Monday - Saturday 9am until 5pm

Sunday 10am until 4pm

DELIVERY
SERVICE
AVAILABLE

01622 718580

431 London Road, Ditton, Aylesford ME20 6DB
(only 5 minutes from M20 Junction 5) Ample FREE parking



WhatsApp us on

07808 645806



SONUBAITS



Check out our Instagram page
#pinionsfishingbaits

www.pinionsfishingbaits.co.uk

These lovely family owned lakes just south of Maidstone are open all year for you to enjoy!

CLUB AND MATCH BOOKINGS WELCOME

COARSE LAKE totals 5.5 acres

SPECIMEN LAKE covers 1.4 acres



07398 571337

OPEN DAILY 7am to 7pm (walk-ins welcome)

Night fishing available 7pm to 7am



Chart Hill Lakes

[charthilllakes](https://www.facebook.com/charthilllakes)



Chart Hill Road Chart Sutton ME17 3EZ
www.charthilllakes.co.uk



Worth Tool Hire

Worth Hiring Better Than Buying!

High Quality tools and plant, for domestic and commercial Projects

Worth tool hire is ready to help make your project a success. We have a vast range of products available for short or long term

Email: enquiries@worthtoolhire.co.uk

Phone: 07770888521



REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING

101 For Non-Emergencies

999 If a crime is taking place

Or The Environment Agency Incident Number:

0800 807060





ParkerBaits

We're all about creating high-quality carp baits that stand out from the crowd and give you an edge. That's exactly why we steam our baits, locking in the nutritional value to produce a bait that carp want to eat time and time again!



FISH WITH CARL







The Tackle Box

The Tacklebox has been in business since 1983. We stock the best carp and Specialist fishing tackle and equipment available from the industries top brands and we complement that with seeking out products from outside the fishing tackle industry giving you that little surprise of discovering something different in our store.

www.tacklebox.co.uk





Rig Marole

FINELY TUNED TACKLE



It all began over nineteen years ago when a design company was set up to produce unique end tackle for the specimen angler, this was when Rig Marole was created. With a core team of mainly carp anglers, we quickly built a following aimed at top end customers who wanted better quality end tackle than was available at that time.



FRESHWATER INFORMER

To place a business card advert in The Freshwater Informer, please contact us to discuss prices and artwork.





At Little Shed of Designs we make bespoke Oak Clocks and Ornaments which can be personalised with a message or name depending on the space on the item.

We also try and bring your own ideas to a product if we can, we will.

Etsy Site



Social Media





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

Spring Lodge | Iden Wood Fishery
| Coldharbour Lane | Iden | Rye
East Sussex | TN31 7UT



My Fishing Travels by Russ Evans

Fishing Tail Films is a reflection of my Passion for Angling and catching a variety of species throughout the seasons from Perch in the cold months to Bream and Tench in the spring. Fishing large gravel pits and rivers is where I like to spend the majority of my time by the water's edge. Specimen Chub, Carp and Roach are also on my target list each season.



The Golden Years of Coarse Fishing

by Bob Rolph

Legends of the 60's - No.1

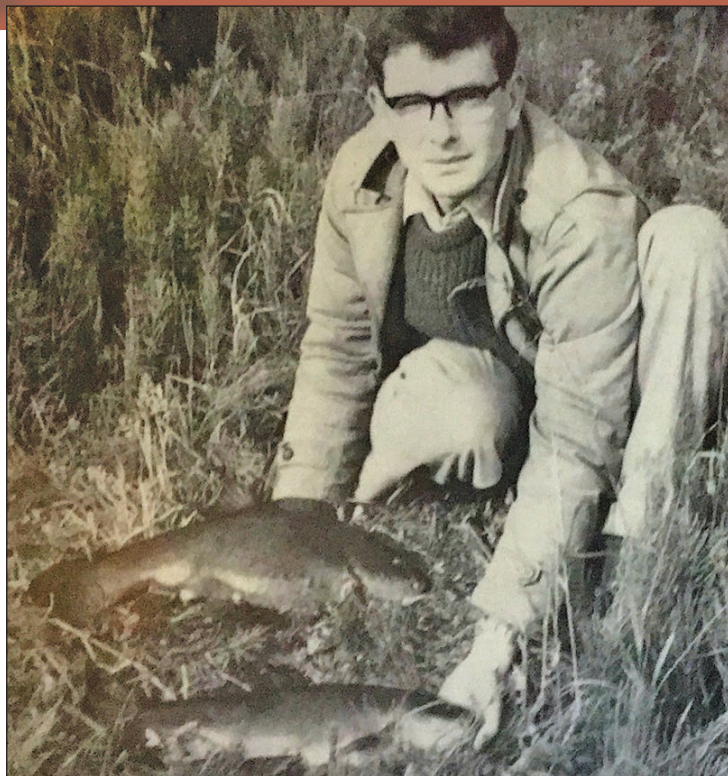
Frank Guttfield 1939-2015

Life in Berlin during the late 1930s was difficult to say the least for the family of a Jewish antiquarian book seller, who could foresee the trouble brewing, so Fritz Guttfield bought his family to England in good time to avoid the horrors that were to unfold in Germany around that time...

A son Frank, was born in 1939, and they settled at that time in Cambridgeshire prior to moving to Whitechapel in London. By the age of 9, young Frank was living in a small village in Bedfordshire called Arlesey with his family and beginning to enjoy the rural English countryside, its wildlife and the fishing in local streams and the notorious deep Arlesey pit nearby, which harboured huge perch. Little did anyone know at the time, but this coincided with Richard Walker starting to fish at the lake, meeting young Frank there, and teaching him to catch the huge perch that inhabited the pit at that time in 1949.

Frank went on to become one of the pioneers of big fish angling in England following the publication of his diary of fishing escapades from the year 1962, mainly tench, roach and chub from local waters near to his home. The book 'In Search of Big Fish' was a best seller, and together with his numerous articles in 'Fishing' magazine he became quite famous. All this was just before the 'big freeze' of 1963 when all fishing ceased for 6 months, and lakes and rivers were under feet of ice.

Previously, in Feb 1947, an even harsher snow and ice period enveloped the country, but this one didn't last so long, and fish kills were not so great. It didn't for example affect Redmire Pool in Herefordshire, as several huge carp were taken by Walker and his friends in 1951 and 1952.



Frank concentrated on tench in the early days



Work nearing completion on Dick Walkers hut

Arlesey Lake was very deep, 50 feet in places, and Frank could walk to the water from his family house. No health and safety rules then, when Richard Walker came on to the scene and befriended this budding young angler, who was keen to learn from the master. Frank was 9 years old about this time, and the 4lbs perch of Arlesey lake fell regularly to the deep fished baits of the 2 anglers.

Dick, being a committee member of Hitchin Angling Club, hurriedly installed Frank as a junior member and he received a certificate of merit for a huge Brown Trout that he caught from the River Ivel when he was 16. The fish weighed 6lbs 14ozs and was taken from the upper reaches near Astwick, and Dick was well impressed!

Dick at that time lived at 11 Bearton Ave in Hitchin, not too far for Frank to travel by bike, to visit him at every opportunity. The great Richard Walker was the greatest angler of his generation, and could see in Frank, the same drive and skills that he had when he was Frank's young age of 16. Frank was taught by Dick everything that he knew about big fish angling, and he persuaded him to write an article for the Angling Times about his big trout capture from the River Ivel. Frank became

the youngest person to write for the paper at the age of 16.

Franks first love was tench fishing, then river fishing for roach and chub. The river Windrush west of Oxford once held a huge head of quality roach to nearly 3lbs, and a young Frank fished for them extensively, catching in excess of 200 fish over 2lbs, up to a magnificent fish of 2lbs 14ozs. This was all nearly 50 years ago now, so don't expect such fish to be found there nowadays!

Frank caught big perch fishing with Dick at Arlesey lake, but it was the Tench of Southill Park Lake where most of his early 5lb plus fish were taken. 50 years ago a 5lb tench was the target to aim for, and regarded as a huge fish. The record stood at 8lb 8ozs for many many years. 'Twitchalot Pool' as he named it was an old estate lake landscaped by Capability Brown in 1775 and once owned by the Whitbred Family. It was heavily weeded and shallow and had grassy banks coming down to a curved concrete

edge, but it was teeming with tench and Rudd. I fished there once in 1968 and seem to remember obtaining a day ticket from the bailiff on the bank, once it became a public park. All the great anglers of the 1950s and 60s fished there. Hilton, Quinlan, Bob Buteux and Pete Frost, but it was Mike Winter who took me there, to meet members of the Herts/Chiltern specimen group. Walker, Taylor, Alan Brown and Ian Howcroft all fished there for the tench. Frank had huge bags of tench there in the early mornings before work, 20-30 fish always including a few 5lbbers. He used cockles and mussels and all manner of baits to lure the fish to his chosen swim with heavy groundbaiting and raking. The oxygenating pond weed, elodea, needed clearing on a regular basis, and raking the night before brought the fish in to the area 6 hours later in the morning, a method that I used on Kentish waters to great effect during the late 1960s. All these anglers were 5 to 10 years my senior, and I learnt so much from watching them and reading their books and articles.

Jack Hilton fished with Frank at Southill long before he became a famous carp angler, and before I first met him at Spicers and Brooklands lake at Dartford in 1965. Mike Winter from Devon was a great mate of Frank, and they both wrote in 'Fishing' magazine. Very upmarket articles about, baits, tactics and methods. I took Mike to Claydon to fish for catfish, and we drove over to 'Twitcherlot Pool' early one morning to meet the tench fishing crowd, and to Tring one day to fish for the bream.

The big fish scene in the 1960s centred around Hitchin, Northampton, Oxford and Aylesbury, where Walker, Taylor, Reynolds and Stone all lived. Frank was one of the Hertfordshire Group of anglers and it was all a very close knit clan of expert anglers in their fields, who often met at Dick Walkers fishing hut on the Great Ouse at Beechampton near Thornton.

Dick Walker rented a stretch of the Great Ouse at Beechampton where the chub, bream, perch and pike fishing was legendary and many an angler was invited to fish there, none more so than my mate Charlie Kirkham of Stoney Stratford. He could walk there from his home and fished for the huge chub opposite Dicks beat on the Buckingham A.C. bank. Dick got permission to build a 200 sq ft fishing hut right next to the river on land owned by Little Hill Farm and along with Fred J. Taylor and Ian Howcroft, got down to constructing the large wooden structure in about 1960. I visited the hut on several occasions with Ron Blackmore when specimen groups from around the country were invited for fishing get togethers. It was here that I first met Frank and his mate Mike Winter.

The goings on at this hut were legendary, most nothing to do with fishing at all, as you can imagine, and Ian Howcroft met Val his future wife (F.J.T. Daughter) there and one well known angler from Stroud in Kent actually spent part of his honeymoon there as a guest of Dicks!



Frank at the hut with a visiting specimen group



A young Frank Guttfield with a 5lbs chub

continued overleaf

Charlie can still tell some tales of clandestine meetings there over the years, of which I shall remain tight lipped! I will be meeting Ian and Val in Perth again next month when no doubt old stories will re surface on the events of 60 years ago!!

The hut is not there now, burnt down many years ago, and the once productive river has been dredged by the river board, and is now a shadow of its former self, as far as the fishing is concerned.

Frank was originally a tench angler, and one lake he fished regularly was an estate lake called Henlow Grange in Bedfordshire. This he named Black Squirrels in his 1964 book, and it produced some memorable catches during his frequent early morning sessions down there in the early 60s.

Estate lakes were the thing in those days, and permissions could be obtained with a polite enquiry at the main door. I did it several times down here in Kent, at Cranbrook, Battle and Bromley!

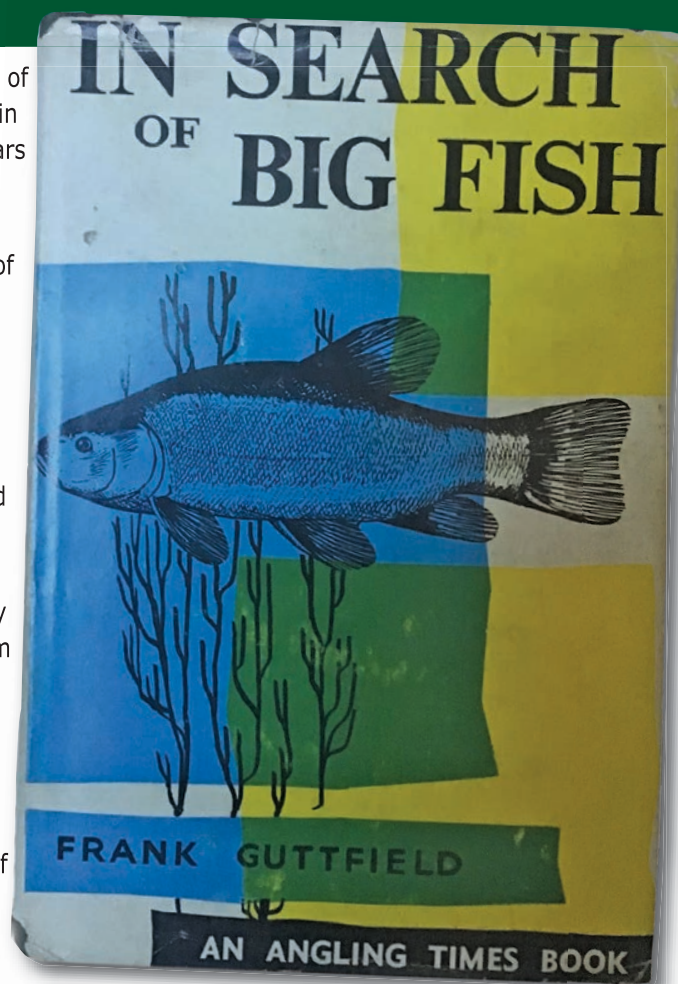
As secretary and founder of the Kent Specimen Group, in 1964, I made it my business to meet as many well known anglers as possible, and fish with them if possible, travelling all over the country in my quest. Northampton was my goal, where so many of the big names from that era lived and fished. I will write later of those that I met during the glory years of the 1960s, when I was only a lad of 19 or so. The most influential groups were the London Group, the Northampton Group and the Herts Chiltern group of which Frank was a prominent member, Dick Walker was an associate honorary member of my mates group, the

Bucks group. I still see Charles Kirkham today, although he doesn't fish any more. We were all disciples of Dicks, Britains greatest and most influential angler, and he influenced us all so much in his writings and captures, Frank too.

Frank's exploits during that year of 1962 were recorded in his book, and subsequently published 2 years later as 'In Search of Big Fish', Dick was up all night reading the manuscript and greatly approved of this new venture. The book was my bible and I wrote to him about my plans when I started my group, and how his mate Mike Winter and Jim Gibbinson had both applied to join!



Frank's last personal best - an 8lbs 2ozs chub



Frank's first book - a bible to many anglers

I never had the privilege of actually fishing with Frank, but met him on several occasions at fishing events around the country, where he was keen to hear of my success with the catfish. Little did he know at the time that he would witness and photograph the then record catfish of 43 1/2 lbs at Wilstone reservoir at Tring in 1970 when Richard Bray caught that unexpected monster. They wouldn't believe the size they are coming out today!

Frank's interests turned from Tench to Roach, Barbel and then to Chub in his latter years where he fished the river Thames near his home at Marlow. He was only a short cast from his beloved river. The weir pool at Marlow and the grassy banks of the 'complete angler' hotel were favourite haunts of his, and Chris Tarrant was his regular fishing pal on chub fishing trips there, when 6 and 7lb fish were regularly taken. Just 3 months before he died of cancer in June 2015, he landed a fine chub of 8lbs 2ozs from the river with Chris by his side. Chris Tarrant has always been a top specialist big fish angler, and wrote many times about carp fishing in the fishing magazines of the 1960s. He does great charity work at the Wraysbury lakes and lives near the Kennet where his barbel fishing is renown.

Frank was one of the very first great 'Specimen Hunters' of his time and is revered by many anglers of his era, including me, his son Fred has taken up the mantle and catches great Thames chub. Frank had 6 children, and his biography 'Old Man River' is a fitting tribute to one of the greatest thinking Fanglers of era long passed but never forgotten.

Bob Rolph

MFC

Outdoor Stores

Here at MFC Outdoor Stores we have a huge range of fishing supplies. From Fox and Korda to Drennan and Gardener we have a wide range of different brands for you to choose from. We also have a large range of Air Rifles and Workwear for those who are interested.



NEW IN STOCK READY FOR 2024



KORDA™
THINKING TACKLE

GURU
KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

PROLOGIC
CATCHING ELEMENTS

RidgeMonkey

FLADEN®
Anyone can fish.

NGT

E-S-P SONIK®

DRENNAN

NASH

FOX

GARDNER®

KORDA
THINKING TACKLE

GURU
KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

okuma

HINDERS
Bait

m mainline

STICKY

CRAFTY CATCHER
BET CRAFTY | CATCH BIGGER | CATCH MORE

DYNAMITE

WWW.MFCOUTDOORSTORES.COM

Phone: 01323 846883 Email: info@mfcoutdoorstores.co.uk

9 Station Road, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 2BE



THE CHRISTMAS PIKE

Tom with a huge pike from an early adventure

For as long as I can remember I was always taken fishing by my Father Tom and various uncles as a little lad.

I can remember the excitement of knowing that we would be going fishing the next day and not being able to sleep. Falling asleep at the very last moment, only to be woken up five minutes later at what felt like an unearthly hour in the morning well before daybreak.

With the adults taking up the seats the front, I would be shoved in the back of the van at 5am on a winters morning, with a mountain of fishing tackle stacked around me for safety!

One of my jobs back then, some 40yrs ago was to keep the livebait aerated as we sped along deserted roads on an adventure to some far distant place. The river Thames, a old gravel pit or some mysterious reservoir.

This consisted of a short length of hosepipe placed into a galvanised loft water tank full of livebait we obtained the night before and my job was to take a lung full of exhaust fumes and blow them through the pipe every five minutes for the next two hours or more. I would like to think the laws on moving live fish from one water to another and transporting children, have moved on since then!

Over the year's I was taught how to first handle, and then catch pike and many other species by some of the greatest anglers that I ever met, my family.

Bob, Tom, Chris, Brian and Ron Nicoll

My Dad had four brothers and most of whom also had children, who would also join us on our crazy winter adventures. Over the years a pattern formed, and whilst during summer months various family members would be distracted by a particular species or venue, come the winter everyone would turn their attention to pike and in particular THE CHRISTMAS PIKE MATCH. A well natured, but hotly contested, competition to see which one of us could secure bragging rights for the next twelve months.

December the 28th became the ultimate family get together, where we could all compare cold turkey sandwiches and leftover mince pies as well as exchange belated Christmas cards and gifts, and probably more importantly get out from underneath the wives feet for a day.

This tradition took us all over country in search of that monster pike, and in time Dad purchased a small pewter pike trophy and the successful angler of the day would get to take it home for the mantle piece until next year

On more than a few occasions we would all blank and the trophy would go back home with the previous winner

Moving on to 2020, which was undoubtedly very testing times for many families around the world including ours. We didn't manage to get together and sadly, in a very short space of time, we lost two stalwarts of the family to cancer. My father, Tom Nicoll and his brother, the legendary uncle Ron Nicoll.

Gone but

T
Was
So WA

PIKE MATCH

A NICOLL FAMILY TRADITION

Heartbroken by the loss of two of my best mates, with who I had shared hundreds of angling adventures with, the Christmas Pike Match fell by the wayside.

That is until last November, when I got on the phone and said right lads, lets get this tradition back on. Many of the cousins and friends of family have moved away or couldn't attend, so it left me and my three not so young uncles to make it happen.

I reminded them of a park lake where I caught my first pike at the age of five and used to have excellent pike from but had long been forgotten and hadn't reported any pike for years. I couldn't help thinking that maybe the absence of anyone targeting them, it might still hold a decent fish or two.

December the 28th 2023 - 7am

After the three year pike angling sabbatical four old codgers met in the car park at the crack of dawn, and with creaking knees and rickety backs we stumbled and staggered to our chosen swims. It was a proper trip down memory lane, with most of us using an item or two of tackle bequeathed to us from Tom and Ron.

We witnessed a beautiful sunrise, the rods baited and cast out before we settled down for a cup of tea, a chinwag, and of a tray of very tired looking mince pies.

A couple of hours passed as we reminisced about the good old days and raised a cup of tea to the heavens. Joking that Tom and Ron would be laughing at us for doing it all wrong.

Out of the blue, Bobs float sailed away, shortly followed by a firm strike and an almighty cheer as Bobs rod, which was his brother Toms rod, took on a very sporting curve.

The fight was on and we all knew that this was no jack. The pike put up a fantastic account for its self, one minute it was close to the net and then zoom, it took ten yards of line, but finally it was in the net.

Uncle Bob said with a look of amazement on his face "You know what? I think that's the first pike I've ever caught on the Christmas competition day" Oh, how we all laughed. It looks like the trophy is yours, Bob

Never underestimate the strength of family, uncle Bob has lived in London all his life, but nothing has ever stopped him regularly driving to Sussex to visit friends and family.

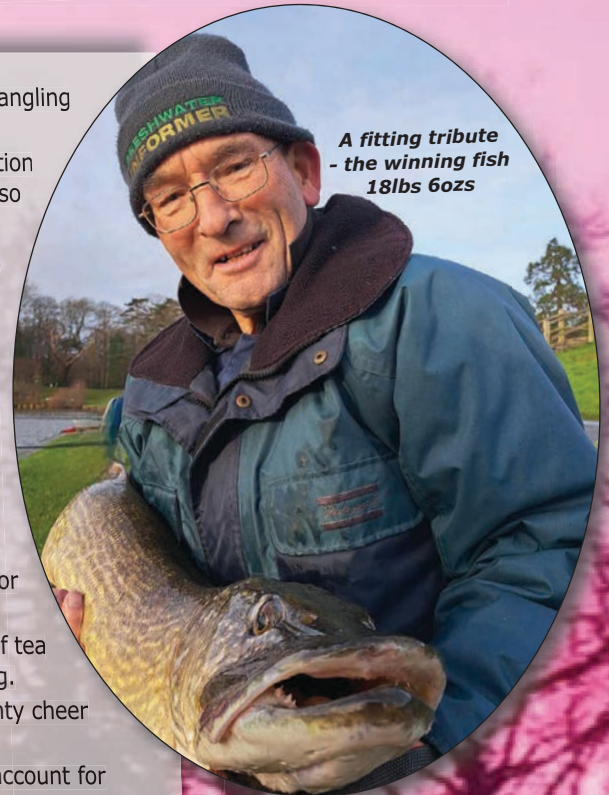
A true stalwart, a very clever mechanical engineer, a loving husband and father and none of us could have wished for a better result on our day of reunion.

18lbs 6ozs on the scales, landed on his departed brothers favourite rod and reel, Bob looked at the sky and said "cheers brother, miss you mate".

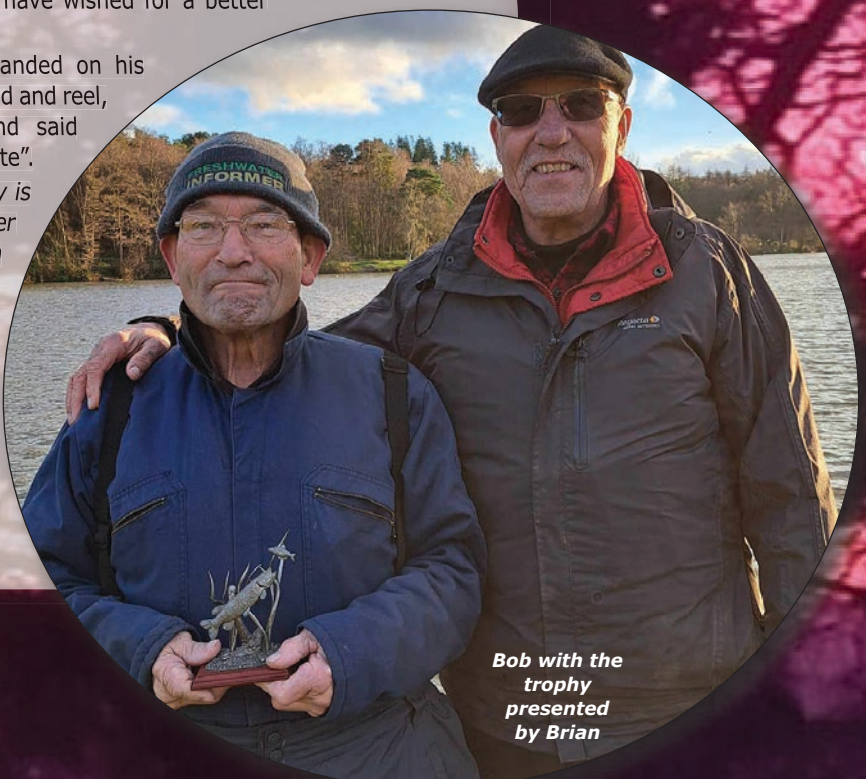
I think the moral of this story is never give up trying, and never miss an opportunity to fish with friends and family.

**Tight lines all,
from Bob, Brian and
Chrissy Nicoll
and of course, me.**

Lee Nicoll



**A fitting tribute
- the winning fish
18lbs 6ozs**



**Bob with the
trophy
presented
by Brian**

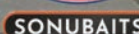
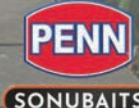
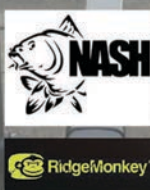


www.absolutetackle.co.uk

All the top brands for the coarse, carp, predator and sea angler

Quality fresh and frozen baits always in stock

We stock the best range of leads for the sea angler in the South East!



01227 636724 / 07809 330854

Plenty of FREE parking right outside the door

Monday to Saturday 9am - 5pm / Sunday 9am - 1pm

12 Wealden Forest Park, Herne Common CT6 7LQ

Between Canterbury & Herne Bay on A291 - just 10 minutes from either!

Email: badders22000@hotmail.com

BAIT AVAILABILITY DEPENDENT ON TIDE AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

If you're a fishery that's ever considered taking bookings online, we're currently working in and around Kent and would love to pop in for a chat! We've processed over 20,000 online bookings in the last 12 months and had almost 1,000,000 web visits!

If you're already taking bookings online - GREAT! Would you be interested in increasing the number of bookings you get? Or, switching to a custom-built platform that anglers enjoy, and can use with ease? We're the preferred technology partner of fisheries that want a system that just works.

We're even scrapping the first year's fishery software fee for readers of the Freshwater Informer - call Alfie on 07713 099 838 to setup a meeting.

Feature List

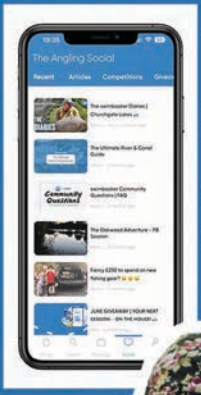
swimbooker

Fishery Management Dashboard	✓
Android + Apple Mobile Apps	✓
Powerful Membership Management	✓
Free To Anglers	✓
Direct Angler Support	✓
SwimView™ Gallery	✓
Lake Exclusive Bookings	✓
Unlimited System User Accounts	✓
Colour Coded Availability Calendar	✓
Customisable Ticket Types	✓
+ So much more...	

REALISTIC DRONE MAPS

CONTENT FEED

DIGITAL LAKE MAPS



the swimbooker™ diaries

Our very own YouTube series shining the spotlight on UK fisheries!



Oli Davies with a fish known as the 'Pit 4 Fully' from The Woolpack Fishery - soon available on #SB!



swimbooker



www.swimbooker.com | info@swimbooker.com

Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society

Fishing has been quiet the last month due to the weather conditions. Those that have ventured out, have managed to find a few fish.

Junior member **Alex Stokes** has done well, on a Pike session with Dad **Gareth**, Alex landed a cracking 16lbs 5ozs specimen. On another trip, fishing a short 2 hour session with Dad Gareth again, they managed 3 pike and the biggest being a very impressive 15lbs 8ozs. Alex also caught a surprise 6ozs dace.

The Society are running a trial Pike League at present and 16 keen regulars have entered. With a prize pot of £800, there's a lot to fish for. The first of the matches only produced two fish, both from the river. **Pete Groombridge** took the honours with a single fish of 14lbs 9ozs. Second spot went to Tony Cooper with a fish of 6lbs.

Barden Lake has fished hard for pike this winter but a Day Ticket angler had a cracking fish of just under 25lbs on a whole mackerel.

Jason Craven also had a nice pike of 13lbs 4ozs from **the river** and another fish of 21lbs 8ozs was reported and caught on a lure.

Paul Mitchell enjoyed having the **New Lagoon** to himself, Paul caught lots of carp, a few bream and tench, lots of quality silvers and a decent perch.

David Brooks has done well on the **Old Ballast Pit** recently, catching bream to over 5lbs and a lovely carp of 17lbs 8ozs on the maggot feeder on a size 18 hook using double red maggot.

The matches over Christmas were tough, with the Christmas match won with a mere 1lb 7ozs. The New Year match was switched to the Old Ballast Pit due to the river being so high. Weights were better on this one with in form **Colin Fowler** catching 8lbs 6ozs of roach to take the win. Colin continued his fine form by winning the penultimate match in the Houghton Cup series with a quality bag of roach and chublets for 14lbs 2ozs.

The Society has continued with the work parties with general maintenance and tidying up.



TONBRIDGE & DISTRICT ANGLING & FP SOCIETY MATCH RESULTS

CHRISTMAS MATCH BUNGALOWS

1	Pete Groombridge	1lb 7ozs
2	Tom Fowler	9ozs
3	Ben Groombridge	8ozs

NEW YEAR MATCH OLD BALLAST PIT

1	Colin Fowler	8lbs 6ozs
2	Tom Fowler	6lbs 11ozs
3	Ditch Howard	6lbs 4ozs

HOUGHTON CUP 5 SWANMEAD

1	Colin Fowler	14lbs 2ozs
2	Lee Wakeman	10lbs 12ozs
3	Larry Howard	4lbs 7ozs

HOUGHTON CUP STANDINGS After 5 of 6 rounds

1	Austin Battell	30 points
2	Lee Wakeman	28 points
3	Colin Fowler	27 points
4	Steve Parker	25 points
	Mick Smith	25 points

MATCH CHAMPIONSHIP Current Standings - after Houghton 5

1	Colin Fowler	161lbs 3ozs
2	Steve Parker	113lbs 10ozs
3	Lee Wakeman	88lbs 5ozs
4	Mick Smith	84lbs 14ozs
5	Austin Battell	75lbs 12ozs
6	Andrew Goldthorpe	73lbs 6ozs

PIKE LEAGUE - after 1 round

1	Pete Groombridge	14lbs 9ozs
2n	Tony Cooper	6lbs



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

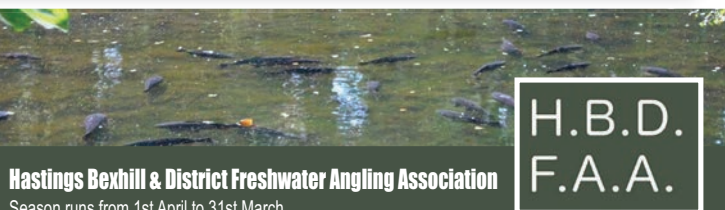
Flood Barrier Night Ticket - £175 + £10 Joining fee

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**



Hastings Bexhill & District Freshwater Angling Association

Season runs from 1st April to 31st March.

Established in 1895 the association provides its members and day ticket anglers with various lakes and rivers to fish throughout Hastings, Bexhill and the surrounding area.

We currently have seven waters that provide a mixture of species at specimen weights to suit all anglers' preferences. As well as the lakes run by the association we also offer members the ability to fish various stretches of river in the surrounding area.

The association provides waters to suit all ages, abilities and interests so there's something for everyone.

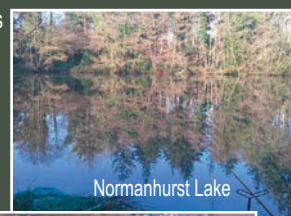
To apply to become a member please download and print the application form from our website. Complete and return to the Membership officer on the application, alternatively it is possible to purchase your membership from any of the tackle shops listed on our website.

For further information please contact:

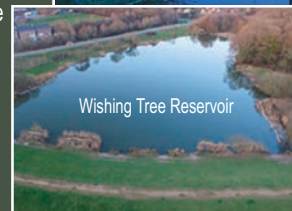
Chris Pagan 07429 655237 Steve Potter 07935 268174

Postal enquiries: S Corke, 2 The Siding, Bexhill-on-Sea TN40 1RF

hastingsandbexhillangling.co.uk



Normanhurst Lake



Wishing Tree Reservoir



River Rother

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

www.lintonangling.co.uk

TROUT INFORMER

Brick Farm Lakes

Herstmonceux

**Diane - 4lbs 8ozs
Rainbow**



**Kevin
4lbs 8ozs
Rainbow**



Tenterden Trout Waters

Tenterden, Kent

January produced good fishing for our Anglers. We will be re-stocked for February so it will be all to play for with our quality Rainbows ranging from 3lbs -8lbs which put up a good fight. The killer flies have been Blue Flash Damsel and Cormorant. Water levels are high and the fish are active

John



Trout love the cold! We have a comfortable Fishing Lodge for you to make a cuppa with our compliments which all adds to a good fishing experience at Tenterden. We have a heated/comfortable Shepherds Hut where you can stay and fish with 20% off fishing permits this year. We are in the Top 50 Stillwater Trout Fisheries in the British Isles and a Trout Master Stillwater. Gift vouchers are available for permits, tuition and staycations. Follow us on Instagram & Facebook. A warm welcome awaits at our family fishery in Kent. **Gaynor, Richard & Audrey.**

TENTERDEN TROUT WATERS

Coombe Farm, Chennell Park Road
Tenterden, Kent TN30 6XA

We aim to provide an excellent day's sport in beautiful Wealden Countryside.

Day Permit £44 = 4 best fish

Half Day Permit £30 = 2 best fish

Catch & Release &
Junior Permits available.
Regular stocking of top quality
Rainbows, Browns & Blues to 12lbs

TACKLE AVAILABLE TO HIRE
TUITION BY APPOINTMENT

A TROUTMASTERS WATER
RANKED IN THE TOP 50 OF THE TOP 100 STILLWATER
FISHERIES IN THE BRITISH ISLES

Contact (01580) 763201

www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk

HAZEL COPSE TROUT FISHERY OPEN AS USUAL

Cooks Hill
Rudgwick
West Sussex RH12 3AF



Contact julie on 07591 373959 or 07849 061824

Weather to fish?

A good question! Being a "Jack of all trades" I can usually find somewhere to fish, despite the recent awful weather.

Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman

I'm lucky to live in a beautiful part of East Sussex overlooking unspoilt countryside. From my lounge I can watch deer grazing the other side of my hedge, while it's not unusual to see a kestrel or buzzards hunting the fields. Even so, I've been suffering from a severe bout of "cabin fever". I've consumed as much fishing on 'Youtube' as I can stomach, 'binge watched' all eight seasons of 'Shetland' and read four crime novels.

I was getting desperate, so off I went to 'Medway Tackle' for a little 'retail therapy', where I bought some float fishing gear and bait! My plan was to fish for roach and perch on some of the commercial fisheries I'd frequented last summer. After my success with Melvyn Oakley, a visit to 'Elphicks' [TN12 8EL] was an option, so was 'Iden Wood' [TN31 7UT] which is more sheltered, a consideration with all the gales we've been experiencing. However I hadn't factored in winter finally arriving and the sub-zero temperatures.

Float fishing

I had intended returning to Elphicks, those roach were so impressive but the fishery was closed in early January. So I 'bit the bullet' and visited 'Tricklebrook' [TN12 6SH]. I arrived at 9am with the temperature barely reaching -2 degrees 'C'. The 'match lake' was completely frozen, while the 'old specimen lake' was partially iced over. It was a beautiful bright sunny morning with the prospect of it reaching a balmy 5 degrees 'C'.

I plumbed my chosen swim, finding 6ft [2m] at around three rod lengths out and proceeded to loose feed a few red maggots on every cast. I also fed a few maggots on either side of my swim by some overhanging bushes, aiming to try these spots later in the session. With no signs of a bite I entertained myself by feeding a few maggots on the floor which were eagerly mopped up by a bold robin.

The day drifted into afternoon with no bites. Having trickled maggots into my margin spots, I now felt it was time to give them a try. I reset my floats depth and cast out, scattering a few more maggots and waited. I was acutely aware the time was ebbing away, the light was softening, if I was going to get a bite it should be now. Nothing happened! The clock was ticking, light was fading fast, it looked the perfect time to try for a perch. I grabbed my 'dropshot' rod and started fishing all the vacant swims along my bank, they all looked so 'perchy'. Unfortunately the perch had 'lockjaw' too, and so ended my first blank of 2024!

Lure fishing

I took an unexpected call from Ben Jones, a friend of my son Adam. We chatted about the current state of the rivers and lakes around the area, and my lack of fishing opportunities. Ben invited me to join him on a pike lake he knew that was clear enough to fish lures. At first I was reluctant, it's easy to get in a rut and not bother, but Ben finally convinced me to go.

The lake was going to be shallow and possibly weedy. I sorted out a few baits that I thought would be suitable. Lightly weighted soft plastic shads, a few 'chatterbaits' and some 'suspending' minnow style jerkbaits. It was a cold clear morning and as the light increased, I took in the surrounding. The lake was reed fringed with plenty of overhanging trees, that made all the swims look very 'pikey'. A few casts with a 'chatterbait' came back weed free, but the lack of depth meant I had to keep the rod tip high and the retrieve constant, in an effort to avoid hitting bottom and picking up weed or leaves. I switched to a 'suspending' 'jerkbait', these minnow plugs cast beautifully, due to the clever sliding internal weight system. On the retrieve the weights slide into position and the lure presents itself horizontally.

continued overleaf



**RIP'N
MINNOW**

After casting, I made two or three turns of the reel handle before pausing. Being a suspending bait I didn't need to retrieve continuously to hold its depth, as would be the case with a floating model. I then gave a couple of twitches with the rod tip, which saw the lure swing slightly off to one side. Another pause, followed by a few more slow turns of the reel. Another pause, twitch, twitch, this sent the lure shimmying from side-to-side. I repeated this sequence until the retrieve was completed. It sounds far more complicated than it actually is. The beauty of this presentation, is you are able to add lots of 'triggering' points within each cast, at a slow pace and importantly, without picking up any debris. A great tactic which actually worked! I received four takes on our short session, landing three pike! All the takes came as the lure hung motionless. Although no monsters were caught, it was good to be out again, thanks Ben!

Fly fishing

Gary Collins and I desperately wanted to wet a line again, but where could we go? All our local waters had taken a real beating with torrential rain and gales, which had stirred the water in what appeared to be 'milky coffee'. I suggested we go into darkest Essex and visit 'Chigborough Trout Lakes' [CM9 4RE]. Being originally sand and gravel pits, these lakes stay clear, even after severe rain!

We started on the 16 acre lake 'Home Water', it was quite windy and very cold so I chose to fish in the lee of the wind. I have to admit my swim choice was more for comfort than where I expected the fish to be. I didn't think my damaged shoulder would stand up to casting directly into the wind, where logic told me the fish were likely to be. Gary followed me to the lee shore but quickly decided to explore elsewhere. I stayed put as I'd seen fish while tackling up. They appeared to be working the area where the calm water met the ripple. I was surprised once again how shallow these fish were, considering the bitterly cold conditions. So why were they so close to the surface, they were obviously looking for food, surely nothing could be hatching?

I started on a floating line with a 15ft fluorocarbon leader, a 'hot head damsel' on the point, a 'cormorant' - middle dropper, with a 'suspender hares ear' - top dropper. After a few tentative casts I had a short take which I missed! Suddenly my shoulder wasn't hurting so much, I extended my casts to reach the edge of the ripple. Although I didn't get any more takes I knew there were fish within range. Gary had worked his way around the lake and was now directly opposite, on the downwind bank. It didn't take him long to latch into a couple of fish and lose a couple more. I quickly walked around to see what line he was using and what flies? Black and green 'mini' snake on a 'fast glass' Intermediate came the answer, with a 'roly poly' retrieve to keep the fly shallow! Interestingly a lot of his takes were coming immediately he started the retrieve. So the fish were shallow, and wanted to chase. I quickly returned to my peg and switched to a 'fast glass', but kept on the same team of flies on, a big mistake! Although I did catch a couple of fish, it wasn't as effective as Gary's method. As soon as I changed to a single fly set up, with a black and green 'mini' snake, I was immediately into fish!

After a lunch break we headed to the 7 acre 'Rook Hall', Chigborough's other trout lake. There were several anglers fishing there, so all the best spots were taken. We slotted in where we could but the weed in those pegs made it very difficult to fish, especially as the wind had strengthened. We very quickly decided to return to 'Home Water'. Gary, the 'snake charmer' continued catching fish, while I struggled. We stayed until we could no longer see our lines, the effort of travelling had definitely been worthwhile.



Black and Green Snake

More float fishing

I have to admit I'd forgotten how much fun watching a float can be. So I headed to Iden Wood on a damp and frosty Saturday morning for another session. The owner Andy Ashdown informed me I was the only angler on the fishery. I chose the nearest swim to the car park on the 'match lake'. It's a popular peg because of that fact, but I chose it on this occasion for the shelter it offered. I plumbed the swim setting the 'waggler' at 7ft [2.1m] and cast to where I'd introduced four soft balls of 'sweet fishmeal' groundbait. I'd also added a few red maggots and some chopped worms to the mix as potential hook baits. I knew I was going to catch as I could see small fish topping all over the lake.



An unexpected but welcome carp

After each cast I loose fed a few more red maggots. I was instantly into fish, catching 'micro' roach on every cast. A change in tactics was required, so I stopped feeding maggots and instead started loose feeding a few grains of 'F1' flavoured sweetcorn. I then tried different hook baits in an attempt to find some sizeable fish. Bunches of maggots still produced 'micro' roach, worm and maggot slowed the bites down and caught slightly bigger roach, while single grains of corn produced nothing! Still I was enjoying seeing the float disappear at regular intervals. I continued topping up with loose fed corn after ever cast. Mid-afternoon, as the light faded, my float buried and my strike was met with solid resistance. A couple of nods of the rod tip signified I'd hooked a bream, it plodded around a bit and eventually surfaced, and slid into my waiting net, result! Over the



A winter bream on 'wag and corn'



Andy's last gasp bream

started getting regular indications. The bites were coming as the final 'tell tale' shot reached the bottom, the float would then lift a little before slowly sinking out of sight. The roach were 'mini' rather than 'micro', while the gudgeon and perch were definitely 'micro'. I kept alternating my hook baits, but felt the bright sun was hampering my chances of catching any bream.

Finally my float sank slowly, the strike met with solid resistance, but rather than the expected nod this fish slowly powered off, before waking up and making a more determined run, indicating I'd hook a carp. A few twists and turns and eventually a small common about 5lbs slid into my net, what a result! A couple of casts later and a repeat performance, this time a smaller common around 2lbs. The swim went quiet for an hour or so, but I kept calm and continued feeding 'little and often'. While pouring a drink I noticed my rod being dragged across my front rod rest! I quickly grabbed it before it launched into the lake. A very powerful fish took exception to being hooked and sped off across the lake trying to reach the far bank. Having slackened off the drag, I bided my time applying as much side strain as possible, but the carp was having none of it! I managed to bring it half way back twice before powering off again. I decided it was either a very big fish, or it was 'foul hooked'. I believe it was 'foul hooked' because I couldn't turn it despite applying maximum pressure. Finally my 2.5lb hook link gave way, I was gutted at not seeing the culprit.

Again I had to be patient baiting as before hoping the fish would regroup. Finally as the sun dipped down and the light faded I caught a small skimmer, followed on the next cast by a proper bream. I packed up satisfied and already planning my next trip. Returning to the car I was shocked how cold it was, the car's thermometer registered -1 degree 'C'.

Tight lines Andy Lush

next hour I add another four bream, all on corn and finished catching far more than I'd expected!

I was 'buzzing' with excitement after this session and couldn't resist another visit to Iden Wood! So two days later I returned. Once again I'm the only angler fishing? I chose the same swim having plumbed it thoroughly on my previous trip. Conditions were quite different, brighter and much colder. My approach was more focused on bream than roach, so this time I introduced four balls of 'sweet fishmeal' groundbait laced with a few red maggots and some 'F1' sweetcorn. I loose fed sweetcorn after each cast. Hook bait to start with was bunches of red maggots on a size 16. Bites were much slower but after an hour I



GUIDED LURE & FLY FISHING DAYS **WITH ANDY LUSH**

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

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

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

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

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

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





kindly sponsored by **Sussex Bait Developments**
email: sussexbait@hotmail.com
or contact sy: 07971 303949

**NEW
COMPETITION
FOR JUNIORS**

Send in your catch photos
and the lucky chosen winner
will win **2.5kg of Hulk Boilies**
with **2.5kg of matching pellet**
courtesy of **SBD**



Charlie Young - A carp catching machine



Few anglers have been brave enough to venture out fishing in the recent weather conditions, and of those that have, even fewer have managed the sort of catch results posted by this month's **Sussex Bait Developments** bait package winner **Charlie Young**. Targeting his local **Tricklebrook Fishery**, Charlie has managed to catch consistently throughout the winter from both specimen lakes on the complex, including some real crackers like the fish pictured left.

Start as you mean to go on

It may have been cold, wet and windy, but that didn't stop 5 year old **Harry Martin** from joining his Dad George on the bank at Hartleylands Fishery for his first ever fishing trip. Plenty of warm clothes and a steady supply of bacon sandwiches kept the cold at bay as the father and son duo managed a nice bag of carp.

A worthy winner of this months signed copy of Carl Smith's book '**The Simple Fishing Guidebook**'.



Michael
Stapleton
Parslow

PB
16lbs 8ozs

Pike



Dad George
with
5yr old
Harry Martin

February update

by instructor Warren White



Finally Back Out On The Bank!

Icy conditions prevented the Fishing For Schools students from getting out on the bank for much of the month. Instead we focused on coursework in the relative comfort of a classroom.

One high point was a visit to Hadlow College, where fisheries manager Brian Bailey took the time to show the Rowhill School students around the facilities at the college. Not only was it very interesting, but also provides a viable pathway to higher education for pupils, as a continuation of the qualifications earned in association with 'Fishing For Schools' schools



Students do coursework in the classroom!



Fisheries Manager Brian Bailey showing Rowhill students around Hadlow College



Students found the tour very informative



Harrington Blowers
Pike
Local river



Charlie Young - Tricklebrook New Lake



Harlie Perren
First ever Pike

CANTERBURY
PLUMBING SUPPLIES
VISIT OUR
AFFORDABLE DESIGNER
BATHROOM SHOWROOM
@ wincheap ind. est.

Warren White
07837 758923
www.coachingcoursefishing.co.uk

Fishing for Schools
020 7840 9212
www.countryside-alliance.org/the-foundation/fishingforschools/

THE LITTLE SHED
Of Designs
f i

Angling & Anxiety
HIT LIKE & SUBSCRIBE

Henfold Bait & Tackle
07956 043922

SCOTTIES Fishing Tackle
25 Southwick Square
Southwick BN42 4FP
01273 592903

Please like and follow us on FB & Instagram
[@thelittleshedofdesigns](https://www.instagram.com/thelittleshedofdesigns)

In the edge with Alex

There was a time when the cold and rain did little to dampen my spirits. No elements of inconvenience would keep me from the waters edge. Nowadays, along with many of my angling peers, when it gets too cold or too wet, we're more likely to be found huddling around an open fire, regaling each other with tales of past successes. Folklore and fairy tales of monsters and myths to keep the embers of enthusiasm glowing until such time as we cast again...

The mirror carp idled slowly across the weed bed, unaware or unconcerned of my presence. This was to be my last visit of the year to the lake, but all summer long I had studied its behaviour and mapped its patrol routes, and all summer long it had managed to avoid my best efforts. I'd had a very enjoyable and productive few months, including the capture of an ancient looking, mahogany backed, estate lake mirror, with huge apple slice scales along its flanks, which to the best of my knowledge was the biggest fish in the lake, but if I could sign off with this fish, my nemesis, then my season would be complete.

I had quickly realised that this particular carp would avoid patches of bait, was wary of bright colours and was acutely line shy. Gone was my preferred method of float fished sweetcorn, replaced instead with dull 10mm fishmeal boilies and a lead clip arrangement. Even this approach had required tweaking over a number of visits and close encounters. Initially I had started out with a one ounce lead, wary of the amount of soft silt in the swim. After an aborted take I realised that it wasn't heavy enough to create a bolt effect, yet too bulky to strike through when the fish picked up the bait. After that I switched to a more conventional two ounce lead, ideal for self hooking but too cumbersome to manoeuvre out of the way of the smaller commons that would occasionally accompany the target mirror, with any attempt to do so resulting in fish fleeing in all directions and destroying the swim for the day. In the end I settled for a small link leger consisting of a short length of line looped through the lead clip with a couple of Swan shot squeezed onto it. No good for self hooking but heavy enough to reach the spot I was aiming for. This gave rise to another problem, as although the estate lake was gin clear, spotting a dark coloured 10mm bait against a silty lakebed was almost impossible. This is where my baiting strategy came into play. Having watched this fish over many sessions I was able to predict its patrol route. Flicking individual baits at intervals of a couple of feet I created a trail of breadcrumbs leading towards my trap, often having a number of these trails leading to a central point, with my hookbait being the only bait in that area. It was then simply a case of waiting for the fish to dip down, watching for a puff of silt, and striking at the appropriate time. I'd perfected the technique in other areas of the lake, with the lakes smaller residents, but now it was time to put it to the true test.

The mirror glided off the top of weed and lazily began to make its way along the front of the weed bed. It passed over the first freebie but slowed to a stop as it approached the second. Hanging motionless mid water, as if contemplating the world, before slowly dipping down to take the bait. Staying closer to the lakebed, it moved along picking up the boilies one by one. Each with more enthusiasm than the last. Eventually only one remained and as the fish zeroed in on it. I steadied both my rod and my nerve. A summers worth of effort had come down to this. A puff of silt. The swish of the rod, waiting for a resistance that never came...

The rod continued on its upwards trajectory, clattering through the branches above me and taking me with it. I lost my footing and fell backwards, landing on the hard unforgiving bank with thump. I rolled over just in time to see a huge mushroom cloud of silt rise up in the swim as the carp bolted for cover. I brushed myself down and checked over my rod. I was using my original B James & Sons, Richard Walker MKIV, at over half a century old it deserved better than to be flung around like a piece of kindling. Thankfully both rod and reel appeared unscathed, something that couldn't be said of my mental state as I stomped and stamped, demanding of a nearby tree, arms outstretched, how did I miss it? what could have I done differently? As the silt settled, so did my frustration and I decided to check an area in the shallows that I had baited on arrival, before bidding farewell to the lake for the foreseeable future. I slowly made my way around the lake, hoping for something to banish the vision of the missed chance that was playing on a continuous loop in my head.

As I stood on the high bank above the shallows, waiting for my eyes to adjust to the dappled light, a slight swell in the water caught my attention. I focused intently, it happened again, and this time was accompanied by a lazy tail pattern. My hopes rose. There was a fish feeding on the bait. I manoeuvred to get a better angle and see what was causing the disturbance. Maybe I could yet salvage my visit. Below me, a sizeable carp continued to feed.



The stunning 'apple slice' mirror



*Going backwards
to go forwards*

swimming together. It was only when it's massive shoulders broke the surface that I realised that it was, in fact, just one very large carp. My mind went into overdrive. Here I was, at a water I know very well, watching what I had long believed to be the biggest fish in the lake, and a leviathan had just appeared from the depths and started feeding at my feet. In the clear shallow water I could make a direct

comparison between the two. Not quite as long as the apple slice, but much broader, and if the shoulders were anything to go by, much deeper in the body as well. In an instant I went from relaxing to reacting. I'm not sure how long I had been watching the apple slice for, but long enough to know that every time she cleared the spot of bait, she would do a lap of the shallows before returning. I was sure that this other carp would follow her, and so the challenge was to set a trap in such a way as to target this 'new' fish. As soon as they left the margins I crept into position. The apple slice had been returning to the spot from the left, so I introduced a line of freebies. There was a small clump of weed about two rod lengths out, at this point I split the freebies into two trails. One continuing straight, back towards the margin spot, the other curling around the back of the weed and terminating just in front of a rhododendron bush. I crouched behind the bush and swung my hookbait out towards the original spot. I was hoping that I would be able to split the fish so that I could just target the bigger of the two. If the new fish continued straight on, I was perfectly placed. If it turned at the weed bed, I had both the time, and the correct angle, to draw the hookbait into its path. Both fish reappeared, the apple slice leading the way. As soon as it sensed the freebies it dipped down and started taking them. This galvanised the other into action and it propelled itself forward, intent on getting its share. As they got closer to me they sped up, jostling each other out of the way, throwing caution to the wind, their only concern to out do each other. As they reached the weed, the big mirror led the way. I felt sure it would continue straight, but at the last moment it turned on its nose to follow the new trail. By now it was so intent on feeding that it wasn't even slowing down, barely pausing to inhale each bait before moving to the next. I swung the rod to the left, batting the reel as I did so, to hurriedly reposition the rig in its path. As my bait fluttered to the bottom, the carp saw it and gunned towards it, its shoulders cutting a deep vee across the water as it broke the surface.

This time there was no mistake. The rod arched over and there was a momentary pause, before the fish realised its error and the water in front of me exploded. Despite its age, I was confident in the strength of my tackle as the fish ploughed off across the shallow bay. As much by luck, as by judgment, I was perfectly positioned for the monumental battle that ensued. The snag ridden island was further enough to my left to not be a factor and the weed in the bay was nearing its end and easily uprooted as the carp charged through it. Each time the fish made a searing run it would culminate in a flurry of weed and spray as the sun reflected off of its huge bulk. Gradually the runs got shorter and less powerful, but the battle wasn't over as the carp tried to grind itself into the lakebed. Huge plumes of bubbles and silt

I felt my heart rate quicken, the excitement of a chance to redeem myself coursing through my veins. The fish turned and as it did, all urgency drained from my enthusiasm as I immediately recognised it as the apple slice mirror. As impressive a fish as that carp is, I had no interest in recaptures. I scanned the rest of the shallows, but with only a few smaller commons drifting about, there was little point in casting out. Instead I sat down under the canopy of trees and watched the apple slice go about her day, introducing a few more baits whenever she circled off the spot. In fact, I was so engrossed in watching this magnificent fish that I failed to spot another dark shape ghost up beside her, and when I did, such was its bulk, I mistook it for two fish



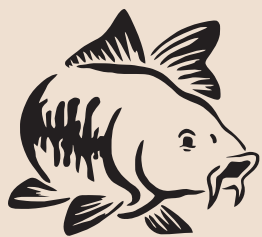
The water erupted as the carp realised it's mistake

turned the clear water into a maelstrom of flotsam and jetsam. My arm was beginning to ache from holding the rod and my knuckles were sore from being rapped by spinning reel handles, but I would not be denied, and in one glorious movement I was able to scoop the fish up in the folds of my landing net. For the second time that morning, I flopped back against the bank, although this time it was through sheer exultation rather than my earlier misadventure. I carefully unhooked the fish, marvelling at its bulk, whilst at the same time puzzling over how I'd never seen it in the water before now. Still, such are the mysteries of old estate lakes. I seldom weigh carp anymore and the fact that it took me two attempts to hold it up for the camera, told me all I needed to know

As the mighty fish returned to from whence it came, once again absorbed by the depths, I sat for a while to reflect on a fitting end to my time on the lake. One could almost say a fairy tale ending, one where monsters and myths occasionally come true.



Of monsters and myths - a fairy tale ending



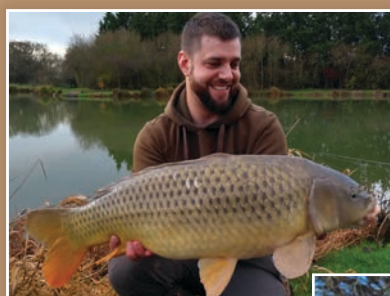
Shirkoak Fishery and B&B



WHY NOT TRY A POD?

Sleeps two people - included is shower, toilet, wash hand basin, kettle, toaster, double gas ring, sink, microwave, bedlinen, towels, cutlery, crockery & BBQ.

Minimum stay is 48 hours at £120 per day for two people including fishing.



This beautiful tranquil fishery is situated on the outskirts of Woodchurch village, stocked with carp to 30lbs+ and Pike to 20lbs+.

Night fishing is permitted by prior arrangement only.

We can also offer food delivered to your swim, our full English breakfast is proving extremely popular!

Fishing prices start at £12 for 2 rods for 12 hours.



OAP TUESDAY
£10 incl. bacon roll!
Pre-bookings only

Shirkoak Fishery, Bethersden Road, Woodchurch, Ashford TN26 3PZ

Follow us on Facebook
'Shirkoak Fishery'
for regular updates



www.shirkoakfarm.com

For more information please call
Hugh on **07973 410973**
or **01233 860279**

Chris Brown Products



Designed & manufactured
in the UK...

Chris Brown manufactures
a wide range of specialist
big fish tackle

Visit our online shop now!

www.cbproducts.co.uk

Technical Enquiries:
E: chrisofoaks@gmail.com
T: (01892) 723670



32" Tench
36" Carp Stalker
42" & 50" Carp Nets
60" & 72" Cat Nets



Phil Andrews
Set Up

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

Sandwich
Coarse Fishery

Visit Sandwich Lakes in 2024

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:

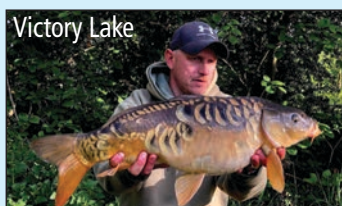
A waterside cafe serving hot and cold food and drinks
Ladies and gents toilets • Plenty of free parking
On site tackle shop for bait and tackle • Rod hire

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 (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.

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 - £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!



SINCE 1907
CARAVAN AND
MOTORHOME CLUB

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



on Sandwich Lakes

www.sandwichlakes.co.uk

Medway Man

Bob Morris

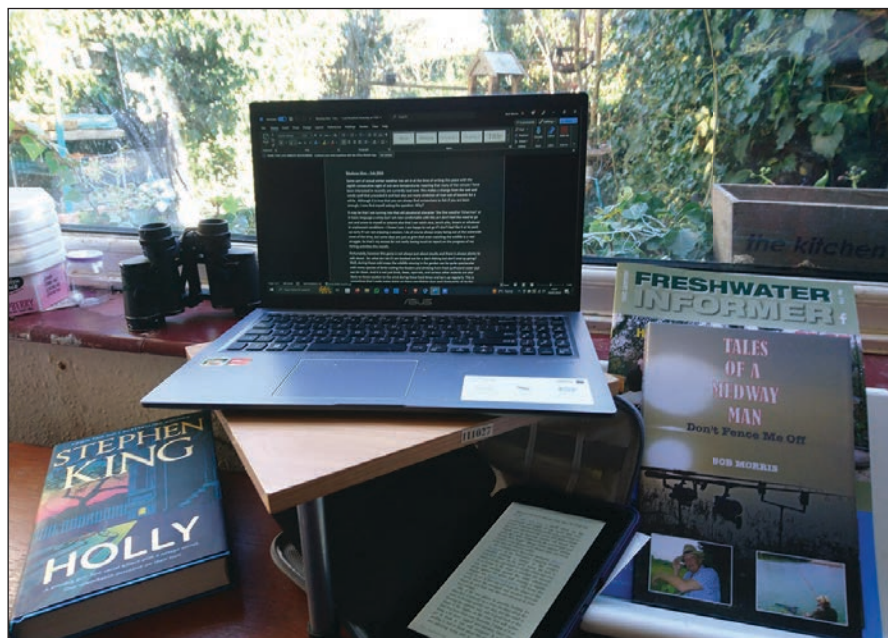
Some sort of actual winter weather has set in at the time of writing this piece with the eighth consecutive night of sub-zero temperatures meaning that many of the venues I have been interested in recently are currently iced over. This makes a change from the wet and windy spell that preceded it and had also put many stretches of river out of bounds for a while. Although it is true that you can always find somewhere to fish if you are keen enough, I now find myself asking the question - Why?

It may be that I am turning into that old piscatorial character 'the fine weather fisherman' or in basic language a wimp but I am now comfortable with this as I don't feel the need to go out and prove to myself or anyone else that I can catch carp, tench pike, bream or whatever in unpleasant conditions - I know I can. I am happy to not go if I don't feel like it or to pack up early if I am not enjoying a session. I do of course always enjoy being out at the waterside most of the time, but some days are just so grim that even watching the wildlife is a real struggle. So that's my excuse for not really having much to report on the progress of my fishing activities this month.

Fortunately, however this game is not always just about results and there is always plenty to talk about. So: what do I do if I am booked out for a day's fishing but don't end up going? Well, during these cold snaps the wildlife viewing in the garden can be quite spectacular with many species of birds visiting the feeders and drinking from fresh (unfrozen) water put out for them. And it is not just birds, foxes, squirrels, and various other rodents are also likely to throw caution to the wind during these hard times and turn up regularly. This is something that I really enjoy doing on these non-fishing days and I frequently sit by the window with my bins to list all the comings and goings. Often it is quite sad to also notice the number of species that now seem to be absent without leave - no doubt for a whole variety of reasons. But don't get me started on this one.

I love reading and usually have a book on the go either physical or on the tablet and I enjoy a whole variety of subjects both factual and fiction. One of my favourite fiction writers is Stephen King and I am currently about halfway through his latest excellent mystery novel. As you might imagine, I am also spending some time writing and most of this will come under the general heading of angling tales and stories, past and present. Some will probably find their way into this column although most of it now is aimed at a third book in the not-too-distant future - as mentioned in last month's episode.

The forecast for next week is for the south-westerly air stream to return which will allow a day or two on the pike trail and even maybe an evening trip to the river



Reading and writing until I can get out again



Where has the river gone...?

as well, if the monsoon season doesn't come back with it and cause a flood. It would not take too much extra water for this to happen now. Don't worry though!

We can still have a hosepipe ban by the end of April!!

Best Fishes & Weather, Bob Morris



Piscatorial Politics


Pollution, Pollution, Pollution - Solution!!!!?


The national outrage/controversy over the privatised water company's failure to control the sewage/effluent discharges into our rivers and coastal waters continues. The latest move involves a pledge (by some) to spend a substantial amount of money on installing real time computerised monitoring equipment.

This will no doubt come as a shock to many who will assume that this was already happening – or at least partially. Where will this money come from? Hopefully from their shareholders and not from drastically increased prices for us all. I have heard that some of these systems will probably be supplied by Fujitsu!! You couldn't write it – hang on I just have.


Bob M



 BobMorrisCustomRods

 Bob-Morris-93450776

 Bmt1@btconnect.com

 01322 866015

Ltd. Signed Copies

1st Addition

(No.'s 1 -50)



Contact Bob Now

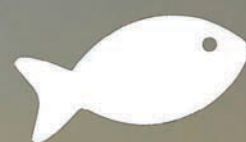
BOB MORRIS

TALES
OF A
MEDWAY
MAN


Don't Fence Me Off

2ND BOOK BY

BOB MORRIS



Featuring contributions by Bob's Friends; Cliff Webb & John Carver



CANTERBURY
BOILER SPARES

Unit 2, Coopers Lane, Wincheap, Canterbury CT1 3ZD
www.canterburyboilerspares.co.uk

Find us on



01227 209079

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 Chart Hill Road, Chart Sutton ME17 3EZ	07398 571337
Chequertree Trout and Coarse Fishery Bethersden, Near Ashford TN26 3JR	01233 820078
Coombewood Fishery Redbrook Street, High Halden, Near Ashford TN26 3JH	07895 679569
Elphicks Fisheries Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden TN12 8EL	01580 212512
Eureka Fishery Nicholas Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN25 4AG	07597 879621
Furnace Brook Fishery and Fish Farm Trolliloes, Cowbeech, near Hailsham BN27 4QR	01435 830835
Gabriels Fishery Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP	07730 066088
Greenacres Farm Fishery Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden TN27 8EH	07933 934942
Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	01580 753813
Horam Manor Fishery Horam Manor Farm, Horam TN21 0JB	01323 840889 / 07707 759364
Horsmonden Lakes 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 Churn Lane, Horsmonden, Paddock Wood TN12 8HL	07716 065900
Sandwich Lakes Coarse Fishery Sandwich Ash Road (A257), Near Canterbury CT3 2DA	07936 409912
Shirkoak Fishery Bethersden Road, Woodchurch, Ashford TN26 3PZ	07973 410973
The Lakes at Beachborough Beachborough Park Newington, Near Folkestone CT18 8BW	07469 809877
Tricklebrook Fishery Colts Hill, Five Oak Green TN12 6SH	07743 955812
Willows Angling Centre Bax Farm, Lower Road, Teynham ME9 9BU	01795 520887
Wylands Farm Wylands Farm, Powdermill Lane, Battle TN33 0SU	01424 893394

Trout Fisheries

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

Tackle & Bait Supplies

Absolute Tackle 12 Wealden Forest Park Herne Common, Kent CT6 7LQ	01227 636724 / 07809 330854
---	------------------------------------

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 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 email: chrifoaks@gmail.com	01892 723670 www.cbproducts.co.uk
Dens Tackle 73 Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6JN	01303 267053
Eastbourne Aquarium & Reptile Centre 19-21 Seaside, Eastbourne BN21 3PP	01323 730635
Gabriels Fishery Tackle Shop Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP	07730 066088
Henfold Bait & Tackle Henfold Lakes Henfold Lane, Newdigate, Dorking RH5 4RW	07956 043922
Jack Frost Reynolds Place, West Green, Crawley RH11 7HB	01293 521186
Kent Angling Centre 44, Seal Road, Sevenoaks TN14 5AR	01732 905088
Medway Tackle Supplies 11 Twydall Green, Gillingham ME8 6JY	01634 475260
MFC Outdoor Store 9 Station Road, Hailsham BN27 2BE	01323 846883
NJ Tackle 150 Milton Road, Gravesend DA12 2RG	01474 353998
Orchard Tackle 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	01795 661089
South London Angling Centre 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 Wateringbury ME18 5EH	01622 814296 / 07941 085011

Angling Clubs & Societies

Bromley (Kent) & District AS PO Box 895, East Grinstead RH19 9ND Email: bdas-kent-enquiry@bdaskent.co.uk	
Cinder Hill Fly Fishing Membership available from email: r.nathan@btinternet.com	01892 770903
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 PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB	Martyn 07802 248861
Wantsum Angling Association or contact via website www.wantsumaa.co.uk	01227 678063



Mousehole Lakes

NINE ACRES - THREE LAKES

BAILIFF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE
FOR UNLOADING YOUR EQUIPMENT
TO YOUR SWIM



Kestrel Lake



Swift Lake



Swift Lake



Kingfisher Lake



SWIFT LAKE (Match/Pleasure) up to 2 Rods

Day Ticket : £10

KESTREL LAKE up to 3 Rods

Day Ticket : £25

24 hours : £40

36 hours : £55

48 hours : £70

5 days : £145

6 days : £160

60 hours : £85

72 hours : £100

84 hours : £115

96 hours : £130

7 days : £175

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

KINGFISHER LAKE up to 3 Rods

Day Ticket : £20

24 hours : £35

36 hours : £50

48 hours : £65

5 days : £140

6 days : £155

60 hours : £80

72 hours : £95

84 hours : £110

96 hours : £125

7 days : £170

Exclusive Hire up to 15 anglers for 48 hours : £1,000



NEW CAFE OPEN



Mousehole Bait & Tackle

is open 7 days a week for all your needs. Contact Joanne on **07725 783405** for any bait and tackle enquiries.



TOILET & SHOWER BLOCK WITH DISABLED FACILITIES

FREE shower for overnight & 48hr plus sessions

Maidstone Road | Nettlestead | Maidstone | Kent | ME18 5HR

07725 783405

www.mouseholelakes.co.uk



www.thefreshwaterinformer.com