

FREE



Nate Green
23lb 2oz pike

Sandwich
Coarse Fishery

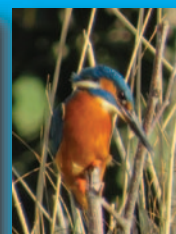
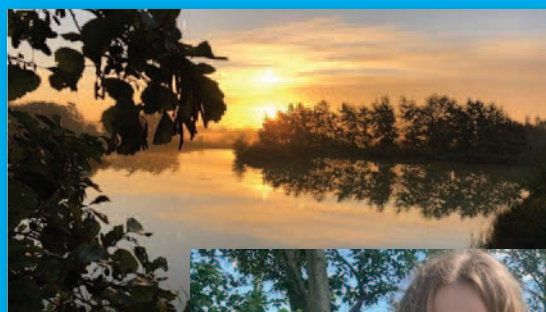


Tel: 07936 409912

email: enquiries@sandwichlakes.co.uk

www.sandwichlakes.co.uk

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



For many people spring signals a fresh start, a new beginning, a rebirth, and for us anglers in particular, the start of a new fishing year. It is then, perhaps, quite fortuitous that the next chapter in the history of The Freshwater Informer should begin as winter draws to a close and we look forward together in anticipation of better days to come, where dreams may just become reality.

As many of you may already be aware, after many years at the helm, Barry Reed has decided to take a well earned retirement.

The amount of effort and sheer hard work that Barry has put into running the magazine cannot be under-estimated and the fact that he managed to keep the publication going throughout the toughest of times during lockdown is testament to this.

But all good things must come to an end and with many new adventures awaiting him and his wife Nicola, he has graciously passed the reigns to us.

We wish them both well in their new lifestyle and look forward to seeing him in these pages now he has some time to actually go fishing!

So what of us?

We are both life long anglers, born and raised in Sussex and The Freshwater Informer has been a constant backdrop to our angling. Whether as an insight to new waters, learning

different tactics and approaches or discovering hitherto unknown tackle shops and bait suppliers it has always formed a part of our angling armoury.

From written correspondence with Roger Standen to emails with Barry Reed, FWI has remained something to rely on and find inspiration from within its pages when planning the next fishing trip - and that is the beauty of the Freshwater Informer. Whether in the printed magazine, on the website or the facebook page, it brings together, promotes and celebrates the strong angling community within the South East. A place to share your successes, bemoan your misfortune or simply reminisce on the one that got away...

It is this community spirit that we want to foster and develop, whether that be encouraging new anglers into the sport or looking back to a more gentle time. Moving forward, we have ideas that we will be putting into practice over the coming months but the fundamental core will always be You and Your catches.

We look forward to meeting you on the bank, Alex Coutts and Lee Nicoll



The Freshwater Informer

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Catch reports – Alex 07484 699437



COPY DEADLINE for APRIL 2023

MONDAY 20th March 2023 at 5pm

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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!

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**From all of the Fisheries, Tackle Shops, readers and everyone at
The Freshwater Informer**

We wish Barry and Nicola a long and happy retirement

Hi Barry,
we knew that the day
was coming but it's still
hard to believe! All the
best for your next
chapter.
Andy Telford

Thank you Barry
for the work you've
done over the years with
the magazine. Hope you
have a long and happy
retirement and get to do
all of the things you've
been wanting to do.
All the very best,
Glen Wood

Many thanks for all
you have done for
anglers and angling
over the past years.
Best of luck for your
future activities.
George Newstead

Here's to a happy
retirement Barry,
your posts have been
great and given a lot of
pleasure to a lot of people.
Take care and all the very
best to you and your wife.
Paul Simmons

G'day Barry...
will miss your daily
reports. It has been an
absolute pleasurehave a
great retirement....you will
quickly wonder how you fitted
that four letter word
'WORK' inRegards
Gordon Nicholls



It's been a pleasure
working with you Barry
and enjoying the
The Freshwater Informer
- enjoy your retirement!

All the best from the
EA fisheries team

It's been such a
pleasure reading your
wonderful posts Barry.
I wish you both all the
best for the future and
many happy years of
retirement.
Broderick Basset

Well done Barry
on what you've built
over the years.
Enjoy your retirement
Andrew Tilley

Good luck and best
wishes to you both for
the future. We will
miss your early
morning posts.
Matthew Parsler

Thank you
for keeping the magazine
alive through some very
trying times. I wish you
all the best for your
retirement, or whatever
you choose to do now.
Cheers.
Andy Benningfield

Enjoy your retirement
Barry. I'm sure a lot of it
will be spent on the rivers
edge. I will miss seeing you!
Thank you for all your
wisdom and help to us
over the last few years.
Susan Jennings

Hi Barry
from a bright
Cote du Canal
Good luck in your
retirement.
Steve Allen

They say all good
things must come to
an end. We will miss
your daily posts and
thank you for all of
your hard work. We
wish you all the best
for your future.
Michael Stirling

**THANK YOU AND BON VOYAGE
LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN...**

Tricklebrook Fishery Five Oak Green, Kent



Elvis - 25lbs Fully Scaled - New Lake

FOR BOOKINGS PLEASE CALL
07743 955812 / 01892 835453



Liam - 20lbs+ - Old Lake

Dad and Daughter

Colin Ruddy had a successful 18hr session on Tricklebrook Old Lake accounting for four fish over twenty pounds. Things got even better when his young daughter came and joined him and landed her first fish, a small perch.



Graham Beadle - 20lbs - Old Lake



Graham Beadle - Old Lake



Graham Beadle - 23lbs 12ozs Old Lake



PRICES

DAY TICKET X2 RODS - £15
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LAKE RULES

1. A TICKET MUST BE PURCHASED BEFORE FISHING

2. ALL NETS, UNHOOKING MATS AND WEIGH SLINGS MUST BE DRY BEFORE DIPPING IN THE DISINFECTANT BATHS

3. NO NUTS OR PARTICLE

4. BOILIE AND PELLET ONLY FOR SPECIMEN AND BACK LAKE - ALL BAIT WILL BE INSPECTED

5. ALL FISH MUST BE RETURNED TO THE WATER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING CAPTURE. NO STANDING. FISH MUST BE HELD LOW OVER A MAT/CRADLE FOR PHOTOGRAPHS

6. MINIMUM 15LB LINE AND NO BRAIDED MAIN LINE

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

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OVER WHOLE SITE

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



Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

Firstly Ben and I would like to wish Lee and Alex all the very best in their new venture of running this great magazine, we at Beaver Fishery were one of the original contributors when it first started all those years ago and we look forward to continuing our support to it.

We are very pleased to announce some great news, as we mentioned at the back end of last year we were going to review our ticket prices for April 2023. Our prices have not increased for over 10 years, unlike everything else in this country. After a meeting and discussion with the owners, we have decided to keep the tickets prices frozen for at least another year. Due to the cost of living crisis we all find ourselves in with many people/anglers struggling we wanted to do our bit and keep Beaver Fishery and visiting us affordable to all. Angling is such a great way to escape the real world for a day or two and has been shown to really help ones mental health.

Even more good news. Though we are all feeling the above mentioned cost of living crisis, the fishery owners have once again continued in their support to Ben and I and invested in new stock for the fishery. On 15th February we took delivery of some new fish from Chilston Fish Farm. Jeff's Lake saw 38 C3 commons and mirrors introduced with an average size of 6lb, Majors Lake had 15 scaley C4 mirrors weighing from 9lbs 2ozs to 13lbs 10ozs, the Daughters Lake stock was added to with 5 large C5 commons and mirrors weighing between 16lbs 1oz to 18lbs 10ozs

and Snipe Lake saw 7 C5 mirror carp with well above average weights ranging from 17lbs 6ozs to 20lbs 2ozs. We are sure you will agree that these young and healthy beauties will be a great addition to the lakes and the fishery. We have attached a few examples of the new fish to this report.



Steve Sadler - 19lbs 6ozs - Majors Lake



Terry Edwards - 21lbs 7ozs - Majors Lake



Matthew Boyce - First Eden Pond Tench of 2023



John Botting - 38lbs 4ozs - Snipe Lake

Ben and I are continuing with our usual winter maintenance schedule and we now have all lakes open apart from a section of **Maze Lake** which is undergoing some bank repairs and **Moat Pond** which our regulars will know has been shut due to a small leak which we are in the process of repairing. Well, we don't need to tell you all how tough this year has been so far regarding the weather as we are sure you have all felt the cold too but with continued minus temperatures and frozen lakes and ponds it has made the fishing extremely tough. We have had fish banked to 38lbs 4ozs from **Snipe Lake**, a 40lbs cat from **Westlake**, carp to 15lbs from **Daughters Lake**, carp to 21lbs 7ozs and pike to 19lbs 6ozs from **Majors Lake**, decent bream and silver from **Jeff's Lake**, F1's and silvers from Maze Lake and even tench from **Eden Pond**.



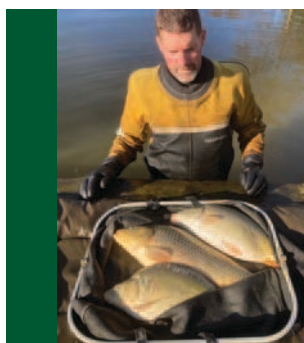
Examples of the new stock in Majors Lake



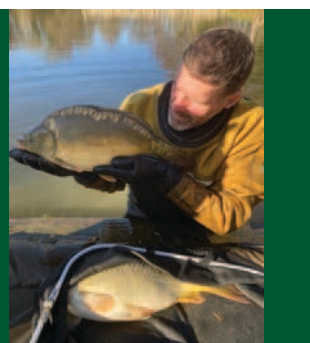
Examples of the new stock in Snipe Lake



Examples of the new stock in Daughters Lake



Some of Jeff's Lake new fish





Shirkoak Fishery and B&B



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or **01233 860279**

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Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society

The New Lagoon has been fishing quite well recently with good sized fish being reported for most species. Young **Bobbie Stanford** visited with his **Dad** and caught a nice 3lb Bream and his very first Tench. **Tony Cooper** caught a lovely winter Tench. Some nice Carp have also been caught to around 10lbs.

The Old Ballast Pit has been producing good Carp to around 30lbs with multiple captures being reported. **Kai Millen**, **Chalie Lucas** and **Luke Chivers** all reporting some nice captures. Venue regular **Josh**, landed the fish known as 'Colusus' at 35lb. The odd Bream and Tench also showing.

Pike fishing has been good too with fish being reported to double figures.

Barden Lake has also produced some good Pike with the biggest going 24lb.

Danny Townsend reported the biggest Pike of the season which was 25lbs 5ozs and was caught from the river.

Match regular **Lee Wakeman** had a good session fishing for Chub on the lower section of the Medway using breadflake and landed fish to around 3lbs.

On a recent work party, our regular volunteers reinstated another platform on **Haysden Lake**.

The Society also introduced our latest batch of Carp into **Barden Lake** with individual fish to over 24lbs. Special thanks to British Aquaculture for the great work they done in helping us. Pictures and details will be available to see on the club Facebook page and website.



MATCH REPORTS:

HOUGHTON CUP 5 - Swanmead

1st Austin Battell	7lbs 14ozs
2nd Steve Parker	5lbs 2ozs
3rd Colin Fowler	2lbs 3ozs

HOUGHTON CUP 6 - Sportsground

1st Tom Fowler	5lbs 7ozs
2nd Larry Howard	4lbs 3ozs
3rd Tony Hyland	3lbs 3ozs

HOUGHTON CUP - Final Standings

1st Colin Fowler	44 points
2nd Austin Battell	39 points
Tony Hyland	39 points

WINTER ROVER - Six Arches

1st Mick Smith	4lbs
2nd Paul Mitchell	2lbs 1oz
3rd Tony Hyland	1lb 8ozs

WINTER CARP MATCH

1st Rob Dunk	23lbs
2nd Luke Chivers	13lbs 4ozs

PIKE MATCH - (16 fished)

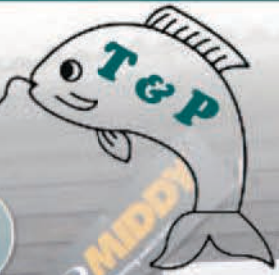
Haysden Country Park

1st Larry Howard	24lbs 8ozs
2nd Austin Battell	17lbs 4ozs
3rd Duncan Battell	9lbs 4ozs

Biggest Fish

Austin Battell - 17lbs 4ozs

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BAIT AVAILABILITY DEPENDENT ON TIDE AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

PB Common for Craig

Mousehole Lakes proved to be the scene of Craig Williams latest success. Fishing on Kestrel Lake, his manilla hook bait was picked up by this fantastic PB common of 34lbs 1oz.

**Big River Croc for Mark**

Few pike anglers can know the River Stour as well as Mark Day.

Concentrating on early morning sessions, Mark has amassed an enviable list of captures over the years, catching up to 70 fish a season. Flood water may have slowed down this winters quest but Marks total currently rests on 26 with this cracking pike of 17lbs 3ozs the best of the bunch so far. The fish fell to a mackerel tail fished on a running leger.

At the time of writing Mark still has a few weeks of the river season left in which to beat his all time river best of over 27lbs – watch this space!

**Lightning fast take from Thunderous Carp!**

Simon Marc Court proved the importance of location when it comes to carp fishing.

Arriving for a quick day session on his syndicate water, the Brighton based angler elected to fish FX baits plum and maple pop-ups on all three rods. Before he even had a chance to back lead his third rod, the first one was away and after a tense 10 minute battle, Si, slipped the net under this beautifully scaled mirror of 27lbs 7ozs.

**Adam breaks the Fifty Pound Barrier**

There can't be many better ways to start a new year than by smashing your PB, and when the fish is one of the most sought after in the lake and over fifty pounds to boot, it's all the more reason to celebrate!

That's exactly what happened to Adam Cox on an overnight trip to Darenth Big Lake. After picking up some end tackle and discussing tactics at Camo's Carp Cabin, Adam made his way to the lake and received a blistering take around 5pm. After a tense battle, Adam, who still wasn't aware of what he was connected to, managed to slip his landing net under an obviously large carp.

On the unhooking mat the fish was identified as the mighty Salamander and once on the scales the news got even better when she spun the needle around to 50lbs 10ozs.

Adam told the Freshwater Informer that, despite the cold evening, once he'd returned the fish he stood staring out into the darkness in complete disbelief at what had just happened.

**Kier's Classic Capture**

It's great to see the regions younger anglers out braving the elements. School boy Kier Johnson had an amazing result on a local park lake landing this ancient looking warrior of a mirror carp on a seasoned baits, the forced hook bait.

Kier presented his bait on a slip 'd' rig and fished with ultra light leads.

**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

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Short Session Success

Over the last few months Freddy Beaney has been targeting Pike in the River Medway around the Yalding area. Staying mobile and fishing with a light lure set-up has proved to be particularly successful in tracking down the predators.

A recent trip saw Freddy land three fish including a new PB in the shape of this lovely marked fish of 14lbs 12ozs. Never one to rest on his laurels, Freddy then backed up this capture with a single figure fish before rounding off the trip with another fourteen pounder at 14lbs 5ozs.



Freddy with his 14lbs 12ozs New PB Pike



14lbs 5ozs - a great end to the session



Another nice pike for Freddy

A Major Pike for Jason

Jason Swift fished a day session on Majors Lake at Beaver Farm Fishery.

Targeting Pike he managed two fish, a nine pounder and this long, lean, fighting machine of a PB scaling in at 17lbs.



Last gasp Linear for Frankie-Paul Milton

As a day trip to Chequertree Fishery, with older brother Charley and Dad Simon, was drawing to a close, young Frankie-Paul Milton spotted a small ghost carp patrolling the margins of the fisheries Lake One.

With just enough time for one last cast, Frankie-Paul lowered in his rig, baited with sweetcorn, just off the bank and scattered a handful of loose feed over the area.



Frankie-Paul Milton and proud Dad Simon



Simon Milton
- double figure mirror carp

It wasn't long before he got a bite and he struck, assuming it was the ghostie that had picked up his hookbait. Imagine his surprise when his rod took on its full test curve as a powerful fish surged out across the lake towards an island. Luckily, Dad Simon was on hand to offer some advice and help avoid a potential disaster.

After managing to turn the still unseen monster, Frankie-Paul had his nerve tested yet again as the fish made a beeline for an

overhanging willow. Thankfully the line held firm and eventually he was able to play the fish back and into the waiting landing net. It was immediately clear that this fish was one of the lakes bigger residents. A fact that was confirmed when on the scales it went 28lbs 8ozs. Not only did this more than double Frankie-Paul's previous best of 12lbs 4ozs but the huge carp is a known and highly sought after zip-linear.

Dad Simon and brother Charley both caught fish but it was Frankie-Paul's last gasp success that stole the show!



Charley Milton
with a hard fighting common



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CONCESSIONS
1 ROD - £8

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Carp
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Top Lake
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Bottom Lake
Catfish to 75lbs

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

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

Once, Twice, Three Times a Lady...

Three twenties in a session is good going at any time of year but to manage it in February is particularly impressive. But that's exactly what Claire Hainsworth managed when she visited Sandwich Lakes, in Ash Kent. Three takes for fish of 23lbs, 26lbs 2ozs and a mighty mirror of 28lbs 6ozs.



Claire with the first of the trip



Claire's mighty
28lb 6oz mirror



Just like buses...

A Trio of Pike for Joseph

An early start on a Sussex river paid off in fine style for Joseph Peters. With conditions in his favour he wasted no time in landing a new pb in the form of a lovely 14lbs 2ozs pike. Encouraged by this early success he recast his float deadbait and soon landed a second fish of just over 6lbs. Big Pike were obviously on the feed as after moving location one last time, Joseph's float once again started bobbing before sailing away and he landed his 3rd fish, and 2nd PB, of the day at 14lbs 14ozs. A great day indeed.



1st PB of the day 14lbs 2ozs



2nd PB 14lbs 4ozs





6lbs

Sub-Zero Carp for Gordon

Gordon Fellows braved -5 conditions to target the carp at Lovelace Fishery. Using his usual pacific tuna and pellet approach, the venue expert had his work cut out. But his knowledge of the venue paid dividends as he managed no less than four carp of 15lbs, 17lbs, 23lbs and this magnificently coloured 25lbs mirror to keep Jack frost at bay.





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Phil Andrews Set Up



Tail walking River Monster for Tony

Tony Parker has landed what must rate as one of the most impressive pike from a southern river this season. As Tony told the Freshwater Informer;

"With the traditional pike season soon coming to a close and the recent floodwater dropping I've been out targeting big pike on a variety of rivers and canals. It all came good on a short morning session when after a small jack the float legered trout was away again. I knew I had hooked something a bit special this time and after a long battle my thoughts were confirmed when this huge pike tail walked in front of the net,

a sight I will never forget! On netting the fish first time my head was blown by it's size.

After calling for a little help we weighed her in at 28lbs 4ozs.

A new PB and my fifth pike over the 20lbs mark.

She powered off in the margins hopefully one day to push over the 30lbs mark if she wasn't already before spawning.

Thanks to everyone for the positive comments on this fish it means a lot!"

**Kieran's opportunistic PB Pike**

Kieran Borer contacted the Freshwater Informer to explain how a piece of opportunistic angling resulted in a new personal best Pike.

The 35yr old Hampshire based angler takes up the story...

"I was fishing an overnight session targeting carp. I don't often target pike as I try and concentrate on carp fishing but during the winter months I carry a separate rod in case I fancy targeting a pike or two. I set the pike rod after seeing some pike activity about a rod length off of the bank and cast out a mackerel bait on a light running leger.

After only a short while, the bait was picked up and I was into a pike and after a brief but intense battle it was in the net and a new PB was in my arms."

The impressive looking fish spun the scales around to 21lbs 12ozs and easily eclipsed Kieran's previous best of 17lbs 1oz.



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New Complex Record for Claygate Lakes

Three years worth of effort paid off in style when Matthew Good landed Claygate Lakes first forty pound carp. The Tunbridge Wells based angler was fishing a quick overnight session on Lake Amy when the complex record common picked up his waffer hookbait. After an intense battle the venues first forty pound carp lay in his net. The massive fish beat Matthew's previous best by over two pounds and is his fifteenth fish over 30lbs from the venue.



Matthew - 40lbs common



BankBeast banks a Beast

Pablo Davz demonstrated the importance of fish location in winter carp fishing. Pablo, who runs the online fishing group BankBeasts, was attending a social at Sandwich Lakes with a couple of the groups key members.

After a fishless first night Pablo decided that a move was in order and relocated to the far side of the lake. It proved to be an inspired move as just a short while later his alarm signalled a take and after a protracted battle he was able to net this beast of a mirror carp that weighed in at 28lbs.



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Elphicks Fisheries



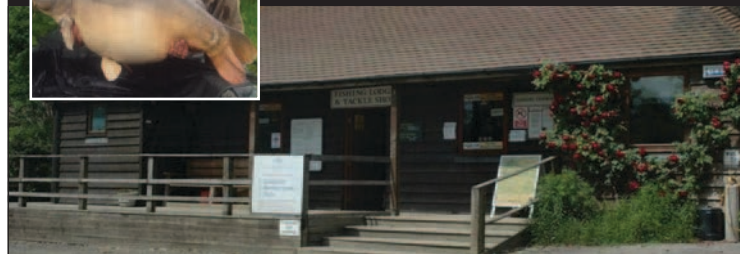
Elphicks has been designed and built with the modern angler in mind. We have 7 lakes available for day ticket and session fishing. Each lake has it's own parking within easy reach of the swims and all swims are 'all weather' - either built of Astroturf, stone or bark. Please contact the fishery for further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



Elphicks Fisheries Spelmonden Road
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float fishing for big perch – a simple approach

The almost blanket use of high protein baits on commercial carp fisheries has resulted in a beneficial knock-on effect for many of the other species in these waters. None more so than the perch. Whilst perch are unlikely to eat boilies or pellets, small roach and rudd gorge themselves as the baits break down, providing perch with protein packed mouth sized prey that result in turbo charged growth rates.

For the angler wishing to try their hand at catching a specimen sized perch, 2lbs is a realistic target, 3lbs is achievable and even 4lbs plus is not an unrealistic proposition.

Tackle doesn't need to be complicated and in this article we look at what you need to target big perch on the float in the margins.

SWIM CHOICE Look for swims that give you access to overhanging branches, reed beds or lily pads. Large perch are ambush predators and prefer cover over open water. They also feed much more aggressively in low light conditions, with dawn and dusk been prime times for a bite.

FWI Tip – on lakes without much cover look to target the slack water beside any inlets or fish almost touching the bank as often these will be undercut and provide perch with the perfect hiding place.



RODS AND REELS

With rods and reels, action is more important than type. Too stiff and unforgiving and you will miss more fish than you hook. Too soft and you will struggle to absorb the lunges of an angry perch as it tries to get to find the sanctuary of any snags in the swim. Multi purpose rods in the range of 1lb – 1.5lb are ideal for the occasional perch angler. Reel wise, a small fixed spool or even a centrepin will do the job.

FWI Tip - short rods are far better for fishing under a tree canopy, whereas longer rods are ideal for accurately guiding your float tackle into position around reed beds and lily pads.

GROUND BAIT Groundbait is a massively under used tactic for big perch. The idea isn't to feed the perch but the smaller fish that they feed on. The movement and activity of these small fish will soon draw the attention of any hungry perch. Use a silver fish, cloud style groundbait to keep the prey fish moving in the water column.

FWI Tip - keep your eyes on the water. Often the first sign that a predator is on the prowl is when roach and rudd 'spray' out of the water. Drop your bait in the centre of this disturbance for instant results!



MAINLINE Line is a number of factors. The heavier as you can and need to. A breaking strain are fishing near roots and other chance of hooking a rogue carp.

FWI Tip - many lighter lines are available and easy to carry plenty of options if bite.



END TACKLE There's no need for anything complicated at the business end. A simple float arrangement with enough weight to cock it is all that's needed. Bites are normally savage as perch feed by inhaling their prey or, in this case, your hookbait. But be warned, perch are particularly aware of resistance and will soon eject anything that doesn't feel right to them. Match your float and hook size to your bait. Bigger hooks and heavier floats for large baits, lighter hooks and finer floats for small baits. Remember, casting isn't an issue as most large perch fall within half a rod length of the bank.

FWI Tip – instead of using splitshot try using tungsten sinkers. These can be slid up and down the line without damaging it. Slide the sinkers towards the float to present a slower sinking hookbait or towards the hook to get down to the perch quickly.



HOOKBAITS If I could use only one bait for big perch it would be lobworms as these, along with maggots and prawns, will catch any perch that swims. Often it's a case of using a bait that avoids unwanted attention from carp or other species. If you are getting a lot of carp activity, try fishing higher up in the water to target the perch above them.

FWI Tip – if bites are slow try twitching the hookbait. Often a small amount of movement will trigger perch into feeding.



FISH CARE Make sure you have an adequate sized landing net, not just for perch, but for any other species you might encounter. I've lost count of the numbers of carp that I've caught using this method whilst targeting perch. Always use an unhooking mat. Have both a disgorger and forceps to hand. Deep hooking is unlikely on a float set up but it can happen and you need to be prepared if it does. Above all, handle your catch with care. Good Luck!

FWI Tip – for weighing big perch a carrier bag makes an ideal weigh sling.

strength comes down to a
ne best advice is to fish as
only fish lighter if you really
of around 6lbs is ideal if you
er snags or stand a good

*able on 25mtr spools making it
s are hard to come by.*

- FWI RECOMMENDED WATERS**
- Fisheries where these tactics work well for big perch include:
- Furnace Brook
 - Tricklebrook - Match and Old Lake
 - Wylands – House, Old and New Speci
 - Sandwich Lakes
 - Mousehole Lakes - see picture right!



A smashing River Session...

Martin Holsten had a 'Smashing Time' in more ways than one on a recent visit to the diminutive River Eden.

Martin, and his fishing companion Henry Staff, set out to target the rivers resident chub and soon had to fish to almost 5lbs. Martin then cast his bait as close as he dare to an overhanging tree and tightened his drag to prevent any fish from finding sanctuary in the branches.

Imagine his surprise when the tip slammed over and he found himself connected with an unstoppable force. Struggling to loosen the drag on his reel, Martin thought that maybe he had hooked rogue barbel, but was astonished when this 18lbs 14ozs common carp surfaced at the net!



**18lbs 14ozs
river carp**



Eden chub



**Henry Staff
- 5lbs chub**



**Martin Holsten
- a smashing time...!**

You would think that landing a big carp from a tiny river was challenging enough, but to add to the drama, in the final throws of the fight Martins rod exploded.

Quite literally, a smashing time all round.

If at first you don't succeed...

Winter carp fishing can be quite a daunting prospect if you've not done it before. Often chances are few and far between and determination and resilience are as important as any bait or latest rig. This was the challenge facing Lisa Branch during her first winter campaign and although she faced a some inevitable blanks through the colder months, eventually her perseverance paid off.

Fishing quarry lake at Hawkhurst Fish Farm, Lisa managed not one but two winter carp including this lovely 14lbs 4ozs common to make her efforts worthwhile.

**Two Personal Bests
for Laura**

Laura Sheehan has not been fishing long but is already showing her husband, Martin, how it's done.

On only her second trip to Elphicks Sandwich Lake, she caught this lovely scaled mirror of 12lbs 2ozs.



**Laura's first PB
of the day**

Laura's successful approach included a size 6 pallatrax gripz hair rig baited with two banoffee boilies, fished with a 2oz lead on a lead clip set-up. The PB double figure carp was only the start of her success as later in the day she smashed both hers and Martins PB's with this sparsely scaled mirror carp weighing a very impressive 22lbs 2ozs.

Laura with her first twenty

Baby Shark...Doo Do doo do...

Although angling is often portrayed of as a peaceful past time, I'm not sure that clambering around on a muddy riverbank in February is recommended in any maternity book as relaxing way of spending the final 40 days of pregnancy. But a minor detail like that didn't stop Rosie Knight, and husband Dominic, from doing just that when they visited the River Buelt at Monk Lakes in pursuit of pike, aka 'the freshwater shark'

Rosie's day started well with a nice mid-double figure fish but as any pike angler will tell you a twenty pounds is the 'magic number'. Only stopping to refresh herself with a drink from a



flask of Pluckley Tea, Rosie re-cast and it wasn't long before battle was once again engaged with an obviously bigger fish. Once in the net it was clear to both anglers that she had passed the magical twenty pound mark and once on the scales it was clear that she had beaten it with ease. This second pike weighing in at a magnificent 23lbs 8ozs.

A mid-double for Rosie

Both fish fell to whole sardine fished on size 8 trebles, 60lb Power Pro braid and a Drennan E-Sox rod plus the 'secret ingredient' 2 flasks of Pluckley Tea. Dominic also managed a big pike, but in his own words "Rosie always catches more than me!"

We would like to take this opportunity to wish Rosie and Dominic well with their impending family and look forward to receiving future catch reports with baby in tow!



Rosie with her 23lbs 8ozs pike



Dominic also got in on the action

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

Our unrivalled facilities include:

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

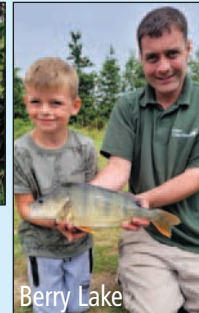
We can offer our visitors six coarse fishing lakes containing a variety of fish from silver fish to specimen carp. Matches and fishing lessons can be arranged by contacting our Fishery Manager Kevin Killeen.

The lakes:

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

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

Victory Lake



Berry Lake



Damson Match Lake



Meadow Lake

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

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

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

Day Ticket Prices:

1 rod - £8 2 rods - £10 Family Ticket (2 adults and 2 children) - £25 Under 16s - £6 Sundowner (3pm to 7pm) - £6
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Mike



Mike



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Contact Wantsum Angling Association on **01227 678063**
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For further details contact: **Jason Tuckey on 07983 569220**

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

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PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB

Contact Martyn on **07802 248861**



Hastings Bexhill & District Freshwater Angling Association

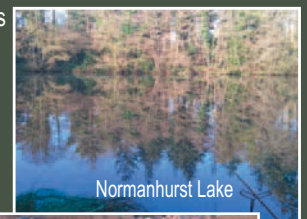
Season runs from 1st April to 31st March.

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.

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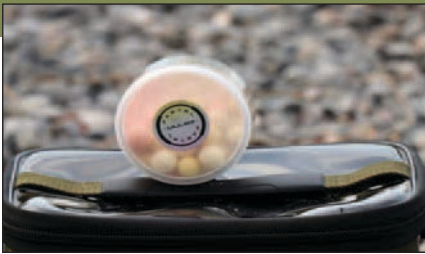
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Lucy leads by example

Normally Lucy Gruber spends most of her time dispensing expert advice to angler visiting Kent Tackle, based at Hawkhurst Fish Farm. But occasionally she is able to get out of the shop and put that advice into practice. One such recent trip saw Lucy head to Hartley Lands Farm Fishery for the day, where she chose to set out her stall on Nicks Lake.

Fishing chod rigs baited with Sticky Baits mulbz pastel pop-ups she quickly managed a mid double and, despite unfavourable conditions, followed up that capture with a cracking 23lbs mirror in its winter finery.



Lucy - 23lbs mirror carp



This mid-double mirror fell to a waffer

WEDNESDAY
CLUB MATCH
RESULTS

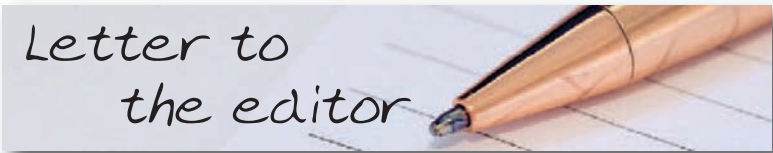
15th Feb - CHART SUTTON
22 anglers
Great weights if you had an island chuck, dire if you didn't...
1st Adrian Marshall 209lbs 12ozs
2nd John Gore 122lbs
3rd Greg Andrews 94lbs 8ozs

Section winners
1-5 Keith Roubles 55lbs
6-10 Lou 74lbs
11-15 Paul Wiltshire 66lbs 10ozs
16-20 Ian Harrington 85lbs 8ozs

8th Feb - MONK LAKE 1
20 anglers
-5 when we got there, but no ice
1st Lasher Larraman 41lbs 8ozs
2nd John Pantrey 38lbs 12ozs
3rd Simon Dixon 33lbs 8ozs
4th Bill Short 33lbs

1st Feb - ORCHARD PLACE FARM
28 anglers
1st Mark Barnett 76lbs 8oz
2nd Al Turner 75lbs
3rd Barry Upperton 69lbs
4th Millwall Harry 56lbs 8ozs
5th Ian Harrington 51lbs 12ozs

Jan 25th - ORCHARD PLACE FARM
26 anglers
TOP 4
John Pantrey 91lbs
Millwall Harry 88lbs 8ozs
Martyn Woodington 76lbs 4ozs
Barry Upperton 73lbs



Correspondence from Robin Piper covering his exploits at Claygate Lakes

This 11½ pound mirror carp was caught from Lake Eva on floating crust after waiting for three hours! Two hours later and with no more fish showing I fished to the far bank and managed a few small Commons to four or five pounds, using bread on the bottom. Fishing the regular method, 10 foot Leger rod, 8 pound line size 12 pallatrax barbless hook, a half ounce pallatrax stone on a light running line.



11lbs 8ozs
mirror

The 5¼ pound common carp was caught with the same tackle but on lake Sophie and was the best of a bag of 30 pounds before the bites ran out and the fish lost interest!

The tench was the best of a bag of smaller tench plus some more of the common carp to 5 pounds and a few skimmers but this time my bait was prawns fished on the bottom, they can be a good bait all year round along with pop up bread however trial and error is the best way at Claygate at times

Many thanks, Robin Piper



A nice Lake Sophie F1



The best of a mixed
bag for Robin

A New PB for Sam

As one of Maidstone and Victory Angling Society's bailiffs Sam Kettle gets to spend more time than most around the clubs waters but less time than most actually fishing! However, he was paid back for all his hard work in the shape of this new PB carp. Weighing in at 29lbs the chunky mirror was caught using a standard hair rig tied by Sam, with a CC Moore carp freaks pop up and pva mesh filled with crushed dna boilies and 6mm pellets fished to open water.



Essential fishing at Mousehole Lakes



Anthony Stanton and his brother in law, Chris Birch, paid a visit to Mousehole Lakes. Fishing the complex's Kestrel Lake, they both chose to fish with essential cell hookbaits. It proved to be a wise choice, as not one, but both of them landed thirty pound carp. Anthony was first up with an impressive 31lbs mirror that came within two pounds of his PB, and then Chris went one better when he landed this monstrous 36lber that beat his PB by nearly six pounds.



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Youth over Experience

Three generations of the Holt family set out for a days pike fishing but it was the youngest Bobby who came away with the bragging rights after landing this fantastic Pike.

Bobby's Grandfather, Terry, takes up the story, "I've been taking Bobby fishing since he was about 6.5yrs old. He's already had carp to almost 11lbs so I thought it was about time to try a bit of winter fishing. To have Grandfather, Son and Grandson be able to celebrate the capture together, well fishing doesn't get much better than that!"



Bobby with his first pike



Joshua Davenports - ghost carp on strawberry boilie



Mazie Johnson - gudgeon local stream

A Day to Remember for Percie

It is often said that there is no substitute for experience and this especially true when targeting a new species. Even more so when that species is pike as not only can they be hard to catch but, despite appearances, they require gentle handling for the wellbeing of both fish and angler alike.

Matthew Telford takes up the story, "After struggling to put my son Percie onto his first pike, I reached out to my friend Darren Chapple for advice and he kindly offered to guide my son ensuring him some fish.

The venue was picked by Darren and we set off for the military canal, bait was kindly provided and he guided my son onto a day he will never forget. Resulting in his first ever pike a tiny little jack and then a little while later this beauty weighing in at bang on 15lb. The day ended with two pike for Percie on deadbaits and Darren's son Thomas also had two on lures." Truly a day to remember.



Percie Telford - 15lbs pike and a day to remember



...a good start



The pike were biting on the Royal Military Canal



Thomas Chapple with a lovely lure caught pike

School Spotlight: Rowhill School in Kent

Director of Fishing for Schools, Charles Jardine said: "If ever there was a pressing case for Fishing for Schools, an explanation for its very existence and how it can transform and grow, the words of both Richard Jones and Warren White are compelling. We at The Countryside Alliance Foundation exist to reach out to establishments like Rowhill School and, in our own way, try to help and nurture the young people with our brand of help: Fishing for Schools."



Richard Jones, Deputy Headteacher at Rowhill School writes:

Situated in Longfield, near Dartford, Rowhill School is a special school for pupils aged between 5 and 16 with social, emotional and mental health needs as well as learning difficulties. Although our pupils come from a range of backgrounds, some have significantly less opportunities to participate in exciting and challenging activities, such as this. The ethos of the school is to

provide pupils with opportunities to develop their academic skills, but also to develop inter-personal social skills.

The Fishing for Schools programme, over a number of years, has provided the opportunity for pupils to develop these vital social skills in a completely different environment. The pupils have been taken off timetable and have received expert angling coaching from dedicated staff. The pupils have thrived, enjoying the challenge of learning new skills, achieving success and learning outside of the classroom, experiencing an outdoor environment. This has had a positive impact upon their self-esteem and self-confidence.

The school has used the Fishing for Schools programme as a springboard to introduce knowledge of angling and the environment into the curriculum. The school offers a BTEC qualification in angling and environment to older pupils, with 12 pupils currently opting for this course. The success of the Fishing for Schools programme developed into the school running weekly fishing intervention for KS3 and Primary pupils. Many pupils have developed a passion for fishing that was initiated by Fishing for Schools and then nurtured and fostered by our team of angling coaches.



As well as fishing...



Classroom based teaching



...and river maintenance

The school is very grateful to Fishing for Schools for supporting the pupils and offering them an opportunity to experience an activity that they may not have been otherwise able to access. Thanks!

Warren White, Fishing for Schools lead Coach explains:

Fishing for Schools have supported Rowhill SEN School for over 10 years now; this is a good and vital partnership for both.

The idea is to use the Fishing for Schools programme for the younger students at the school in order to engage and enthuse their interest for fishing. They then have the option to go on to a fishing qualification at school and in the process, a link to Hadlow College, giving the students an opportunity to go onto higher education when they leave school.

The school, at present, offers fishing and educational courses five days a week throughout the year, which we find is very rare. I work Mondays and Thursdays on the educational courses with fellow Fishing for School coach David Evans. David then works with other age groups for the remaining three days. This is probably the only school in the UK that provides fishing five days a week throughout the year. To offer fishing throughout the winter months takes some doing but it's worth noting that the school fund 100% of these courses as they realise the benefits to their students.



Terry with a nice pike

For this to work, it's vital that you have the backing of the school. I remember, 12 years ago, meeting Geoff Bartrum, the then head of PE, who is now the Head at Rowhill School, and both being as passionate as one another about getting fishing onto the curriculum. At the time we were working with two students, but once the buzz about fishing got back to school, we steadily grew each year to where we are today.

I must also mention Richard Jones, who coordinates all the fishing projects at the school and TA Amy Ward, who helps the coaches on the educational courses and has grown to love fishing herself. You need a good, keen team in place to make this happen.

There is no doubt that in the current economic climate, all schools are facing financial constraints, and in the future we will have challenges along the way, but at present I am proud of what the school and Fishing for Schools are achieving.

The Golden Years of Coarse Fishing

by Bob Rolph

Close Season Eel Fishing on the Grand Union Canal

It was a Mr A.J.Mundella, Liberal MP for Sheffield who in 1878 was responsible for the introduction of the original coarse fish close season from March 14th to June 16th.

Eels, however were always exempt as was Devon and Cornwall and parts of Yorkshire after June 1. Eel fishing on Canals has always been allowed, and in my day 55 years ago now, the old Welland and Nene River Authority only stipulated that your hook must have gape of half an inch or more, for your 25p a year licence.

So, in 1969 or so, for several springs, members of the original 'National Anguilla Club' used to hold regular group 'fish ins' at Weedon Bridge on the Grand Union Canal near Northampton, even under snow and ice conditions at Easter time, either side of the famous bridge No.25 near to Weedon Bec.

The great Reservoir Trout bonanza was in its infancy, and Grafham Reservoir had just opened offering trout fishing to die

for, so we avid coarse anglers with 3 months to wait, took to eel fishing, before the Trout bug caught us all, and the late great Bob Church MBE wove his spell on many of us! June 16th still had its magic for me with the Tench and Carp, but wait we could not. Many of the countries top carp anglers converged on the canal to do battle with Anguilla Anguilla from the Sargasso Sea. The Eel record in those days stood at 8lbs 8ozs, as did the Tench and the Chub, and we aspired to beat this with worm, dead Minnow and various meat baits.

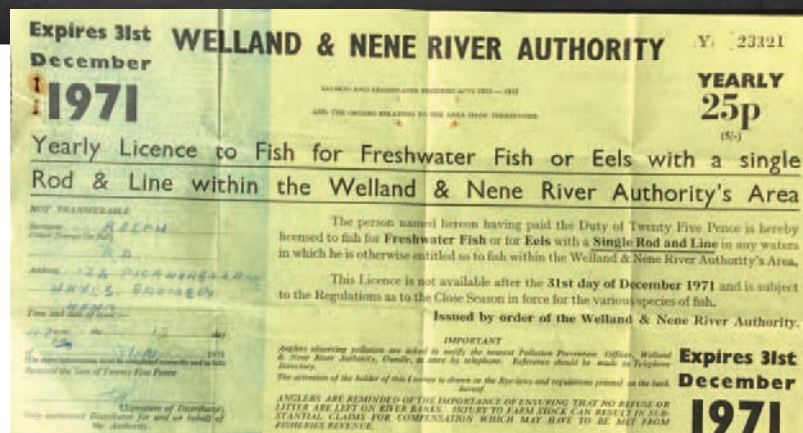


**An Angling Times feature
on Bob's successes**

Arthur Sutton and Jack Bellamy were the mainstays of the newly formed national club, which supported eminent anglers like Bob Church, Jim Gibbinson, Fred Wagstaff, Bob Reynolds, Phil Shatford, Peter Mead, Keith Dickens, Dr Terry Coulson and Steve Edwards. Many were writers in the classic weekly magazine 'Fishing' 1963-69, the specimen hunters bible. Copies of these are now highly sort after collectors items, and I have the full set!

The specimen group phase was in full swing, and big fish anglers became very secretive about what they were catching. It was all pioneering stuff on club and day ticket or prized syndicate waters, there were no commercial carp lakes in those days, and certainly no booking of swims in advance, except on the Royalty at Christchurch, where you had to drop bailiff Ken Keynes 10 bob to get a decent swim!!!

Our beloved late founder Roger Standen also came on at least one of our Eel fishing trips during the 'Close Season' of 1968-70, after I first met him at the National Angling Show at Alexandra Palace, a great chub angler and promoter of the Sussex Ouse. I remember that we talked to Bernard Venables, Richard Walker and Fred. J. Taylor at that show on the Angling Times Stand, and they were keen to know



Dave Boothroyd with an eel of 4lbs 2ozs

what our respective groups were fishing for and where. We young upstarts were only in our early 20s, but we hob-nobbed with the best of them in those days.

Meeting up with fellow anglers was a great feature of the Angling Scene sixty years ago, and it was at the London Fishing Tackle shops where most of it was done on a Saturday morning, especially during the close season. Dons of Edmonton, Gerry's of Wimbledon, Hardys of Pall Mall and little Ken Browns tackle shop in Holmesdale Road, Bromley is where news, views and tips were exchanged, long before the internet changed all that!

They all used to have books, and rod building blanks and materials, and smelt of linseed oil keepnets. It was Don Neish's iconic tackle shop, which used to be in Fore St Edmonton, just up from White Hart Lane, where Peter Grundle and Arthur Sutton formulated the idea of the Anguilla Club in the mid 60s.

Many famous old anglers used to live up that way, north of the old Spurs Ground, including Peter Butler, John Wilson, and Mike Winter, and we all used to meet up to plan our Roach and eels fishing trips for the months ahead. Carp were hardly ever mentioned, apart from what was coming out of Cheshunt or Dartford waters. But the rods Don Neish built in glass were the forerunners to Jack Hilton and Alan Brown designs, and were quite brilliant rods, collectors items today.

Anyway, back to the Eels! After our successful Loch Ness trip in 1965, Arthur Sutton and Terry Coulson suggested we should fish the Grand Union Canal. Big Eels had been reported from there in the



Another big close season eel



A 4lbs 12ozs eel for Bob Reynolds

along with strips of mackerel or herring. Both Bobs became good friends and I stayed with them prior to trout fishing trips to the midland reservoirs and newly opened Grafham Water, where Bob Church MBE taught me how long distance cast with the double haul technique and his array of lures. I took my double haul techniques to Bewl when it first opened in 1978, and it wasn't well received among the dry fly floating line purists! It did however catch me thousands of trout to near double figures, when I should really have been carp fishing at Redmire or Sutton...

Bob Rolph

past, and many members lived nearby in Northampton Leicester or Rugby. Bridge 25 was mentioned several times, and had good parking, so off we all went in the Spring of 1969, there were 12 of us on that first week end outing, and we looked like matchmen spaced out along the towpath but with all the gear for a long week end stay, in cold weather!

The European Eel was prolific in those days, far more so than today, and hopes were high that we would bag some good ones. Commercial canal barge traffic carried mainly coal and was still in full swing in those days going from Birmingham to Brentford near London where it joins the Thames. Some barges had by now been converted to holiday long boats, and at least one boat an hour passed our chosen swims, churning up the bottom leaves and rubbish. None however travelled during darkness, which prevailed at this time of the year, and the water settled down after sunset. When the locks opened a slight flow from R to L was noticed and this seemed to encourage the Eels to feed, even during daylight hours, but we mainly fished at night and it was quite eerie at times especially near to the bridges and tunnel entrances. We were all single blokes in those days, with so much time on our hands, girls? What were they? give me a good, old slimy eel any day!

Runs were prolific from 2-4 lb fish on worms and deadbaits, and we all caught. Bob Church MBE had our biggest fish, a fine specimen of 5lbs 9ozs, and I had a 5-5, but we all caught upper 4s and low 5s, sometimes several fish in one night.

I took up a dustbin full of live minnows caught in a home made wine bottle minnow trap from the R.Darent at Horton Kirby, and the eels loved them. Sprats were our next best bait,



Returning an eel to the canal

Next time...
...the former Peterborough Electricity Cut, real winter carp fishing

Medway Man

Bob Morris

A WINTER OF DISCONTENT

I really can't believe that it is almost time to start getting out and 'dusting down' the tench tackle again. Although I must say that I am now really looking forward to some decent weather after this winter of alternate floods and cold snaps.

My fishing has largely concentrated on the pike and I have to confess that it has been a bit of a slog, with a fair few blank sessions occurring for reasons that I can't really imagine. I think that I have a pretty good Idea of what I am doing on the pike front and although there are places where I expect to struggle, I also have a number of venues that I fish regularly, which normally respond quite well - if I put in a bit of consistent effort. However, predictability is not often counted as one of the main features of this great hobby.

I have managed about a dozen double figure fish, one 20 plus and a few jacks but the overriding theme of this winter has been the 'BIG NOWT' with just the occasional take and certainly, no red letter days! Nevertheless, I have enjoyed being out and trying my best to buck the trend and put my fortunes into reverse. Maybe by the time that this issue comes out the great 'Piscatorial Pendulum' will have swung back in my favour and provided a bonanza of giant snappers for my final few sessions on the Esox trail - dream on. I have continued to experiment with different ideas and tactics although it is extremely difficult to form any firm conclusions when you are getting very little action. I will persist with it however and report on my findings in future episodes of MM - in the 'University of Esox' section.

As you know, a great part of my enjoyment during my time at the waters edge revolve around the environment and the sightings of various wildlife etc. Some of my worst blank sessions recently have been great days on the bird spotting and general observation front. Recently one extremely grey and unpleasantly damp morning eventually cleared into a fine afternoon with sunny spells.



Very scenic but very challenging!



Jack Pike provide welcome sport



Just the one twenty - but what a fish!

This enabled me to use my bins to great effect and spot buzzards, kingfishers, a couple of Sparrow Hawks, a Raven, a Red kite and a variety of wading birds. At this point I was feeling pretty good about my efforts on the spotting front and then, suddenly, I had a take, which was like a minor miracle after having spent several complete blanks here. I successfully hooked and landed a mid double but then, just as I was starting to pack up, a Barn Owl appeared, like a fluorescent ghost, in the evening's fading light. I sat watching him quartering the immediate area and occasionally plunging down into the long grass in pursuit of various small rodents. It was a fantastic way to end a day's session -which had started off as a grisly and unpleasant morning.

I would like to end this piece by thanking all of the customers that have bought my new book 'Tales of a Medway Man' recently, and also, say a big thank you to all of those who have sent me feedback and positive comments. I am very pleased with the way it is going and may be persuaded to do another book soon.

I have been doing one or two book signing events over the last few weeks and would like to make an offer to any shops or fisheries - who stock the 'Freshwater Informer'. If you would like me to do a book signing event at your establishment/venue - please get in touch with me on 01322 866015 or via the details on the ad. You don't need to stock the book - as I will bring plenty with me.

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Trout fishing has been good at Tenterden during the Winter. Our Anglers have been enjoying their sport as you can see in the photo below. March is the start of the Trout Fishing Season and we are looking forward to many tight lines at Tenterden with fully stocked lakes for everyone to enjoy particularly over the Easter Break.

The Trout are feeding, feisty and fighting hard you certainly know when you have got a fish on here with the rod tip bending and the line going to its backing. We take pride in stocking hard fighting Rainbows, Blues and Browns ranging from 3lbs-14lbs. We do request that our Brownies are returned to the water. *Popular patterns:* Blue Flash Damsel, Montanas.

The Fishery Lodge is open for you to enjoy providing tea/coffee with our compliments. We have great facilities with kitchen/dining/sofa, toilet and lakeside balcony where you can relax. All this adds to a good fishing experience for friends and family at Tenterden. **Booking** Please call 01580 763201 or email gaynor@coombe-farm.com to book your fishing.



We limit our numbers to 12 so there is plenty of space for our Anglers to fish. **Fishing Report** - visit our website www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk and click on News/Fishing Report. Please follow us on Instagram and Facebook and visit our Gallery. **Stay & Fish** Our Shepherds Hut accommodation is open all year round for both Anglers who wish to stay and fish and for other guests who just welcome a short break away in Kent. We have had some very positive reviews. We offer 20% off our permit prices if you stay in our Ghillies Hut. To discover more visit our 'Shepherds Hut' heading on our website and click on Availability and Bookings which directs you to our Airbnb listing. **Fishing Tuition** is available. Discover more on the Tuition Page on our website. £50 for 1hr 30 mins. Please enquire/book direct with Richard Stokes, our Instructor, email: richard@coombe-farm.com if you are interested in learning a new skill set this year. **Gift Vouchers** for Fishing Permits, Tuition and Shepherds Hut staycations which can be purchased by bank transfer, cheque or cash. We can email/send them out for you.

Our friendly, family run Fishery was established in 1975. We are in the Top 50 Stillwater Trout Fisheries in the British Isles and a Trout Master Water. Just get those rods/tackle in the car - we look forward to welcoming you to Tenterden Trout Waters this Spring for a great start to the season.

Tight Lines

Gaynor, Richard & Audrey

*Paul & Andrew with their 10-fish bag
Happy Fisherman at Tenterden*

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Mark Leeves
bag 13lbs 10ozs

2023 has started well for fly fishing at Brick Farm, with some beautiful fish being landed. The weather has finally given us a break from the extremes and the trout are hungry! They seem to be particularly keen to take Montanas and the ever popular Blue Flash Damsel, but we are seeing good results on Apps Bloodworm and Buzzers too.

Recent notable catches include Mark Leeves who had a fantastic bag of 13lb 10oz – caught on what is known as a “Graham Jenner Special” with a fast retrieve. The bag included a nice Spartic Trout of 5lbs 4ozs and a 4lbs 5ozs Rainbow!

Nerijus Cepulis certainly found the fish on a cloudy Wednesday morning, across the lakes and throughout the morning until 2pm he managed a total of 12 fish up to 5lbs!

The Spring is always a fantastic time for Stillwater fly fishing – the weather isn’t too bright but the wind isn’t too strong... the perfect time to learn fly casting!

With that in mind, Phil is offering a special offer for fly fishing lessons – 2 hours of coaching, plus a 1 fish ticket and all equipment for the whole day for only £60 for one person or £90 for two people.

Vouchers are available for these lessons too. These lessons must be

pre-booked so give us a call on 01323 832615 or 07730277118 to book.

Nerijus Cepulis - 12 fish



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Lure Fishing

Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman

Duncton Mill – Petworth [GU28 0LF]

I always get excited when visiting a new water, in this case however I had fished Duncton Mill before but that was many years ago, so why the long gap? Let me explain, in the past Duncton Mill was a syndicate water where only members could fish, they could invite guests which was how I'd fished there before. For the last few winters, day tickets have been available, but I had never managed to find the time to get there. So why now? Well, I'd noticed that there's been a change in fishery management and as they always say, "a new broom sweeps clean" so I was keen to see how things were shaping up?

On our arrival, Gary Collins and I met new manager Dan Young who was keen to point out that it was still, a work in progress. Dan told us that Birch Lake was fully stocked with a variety of "home grown" rainbows, browns, tigers and spartics. The deep clear water was a delight to behold, and Gary and I could hardly wait to start. Dan also told us that although Rosie Lake had not been stocked recently, it did have a good number of fish in it. He said we could fish Rosie but apologised for the noise of the chainsaws as he and his team were currently tree and bank clearing there. The third lake Coot would be the next to get cleared and tidied up, so everything would be ready for the start of the new season in March.

What's new?

The big news is Duncton Mill will be available on a 'day ticket' basis, throughout the year, starting this March when all the lakes will be open. For those who prefer a more relaxed approach to their fishing, maybe not wanting a whole day's fishing, then the 'fish quota' ticket option should suit them perfectly. You can buy a set number of fish, either 10, 15 or 20 that allows unlimited access to the lakes, without the need to book, ideal for those lucky enough to live close to this beautiful fishery. Dan is "as keen as mustard", his enthusiasm for the fishery and the onsite fish farm was evident. The fishery has the advantage of being able to trickle stock as and when necessary. Water quality is exceptional and Birch Lake being so deep should provide some sport when the unavoidable heat of summer descends on us.

The final plan when time allows will be to make Alder Lake a brown trout only water. This secluded, intimate lake with its overhanging tree line will provide a challenge for those prepared to tackle it. Accurate casting and delicate presentation will be necessary to tempt the wily brown trout.



Dan Young fishery manager & Andy Lush



Andy tempts a fish on his Humungus fly

The fishing

We headed to Birch Lake; my first impression was that the lake looked rather strange. A walkway led across to a central island which was surrounded by water, not unlike a ring doughnut with the island being the centre piece. From the island it was possible to cast across into the undisturbed far margins. The shallow end of the lake is about ten feet deep, gradually dropping off into eighteen feet at the dam end.

It was a cold, damp still morning when we finally started. Dan had cautioned us not to stand too close to the water's edge, otherwise with it being so clear, fish would soon avoid coming close into our margin. Heeding this advice, I stayed a few feet back from the water's edge. I noticed a couple of fish break surface where a current from the inflow pipe passed in front of a reed bed. I was surprised by this but couldn't resist casting a small black dry fly into this spot in the vein hope of catching a fish off the top. Gary headed to the far end of the island which gave him access to the deep water. He was quickly into the first fish of the day, on a Dawsons Olive presented on a 'fast glass' intermediate. This combination proved irresistible to the next couple of fish the quickly followed his first.

After a brief flirtation with the dry fly, I switched to a variety of slim unweighted nymphs. Casting them into the slight current, letting them drift and slowly sink through the water column. I was hoping they would be intercepted on the drop. My "softly softly" approach didn't work, either the fish weren't impressed, or they were no longer there? I needed to up my game, but I didn't want to catch too quickly either. It was obvious from Gary's success that the fish were much deeper than I was reaching. The few rising fish I'd seen had sent me off down a blind alley. I now tackled up my spare rod with a 'fast glass' and attached a Fulling Mill Kingfisher Damsel. I headed to the deep end and cast into an area that hadn't seen a line this morning. I'd seen a couple of fish swirl under the overhanging trees there. One cast was all it took, as I led the fish to my net it slipped the hook! Dam and blast, actually I wasn't too upset as I didn't want to fish in this manner. So back to the floating line but this time I lengthened my leader to fifteen feet [5m] and attached a FM white Humungus lure. This fly sinks very slowly headfirst but rises quickly after a couple of long slow pulls, a pause then sees it swing back headfirst into the depths. A count of twenty before starting my retrieve turned out to be necessary to reach the right depth. Two long pulls lifted the Humungus and activated its marabou tail in the most seductive way, as I paused, I counted to five before slowly "twiddling", a slow constant figure eight retrieve. I felt plucks and pulls but had to resist striking until everything locked up. Sometimes, if I felt anything unusual just stopping and watching the tip of my fly line for tweaks or vibrations was all I had to do to provoke a proper take. Using a mixture of retrieves I was now expecting takes on every cast! I eventually hooked and landed a couple, on spooning them I wasn't surprised to find nothing in them, obviously new stock fish. By changing my casting direction, I continued getting takes. This tactic is necessary on clear water fisheries where fish wise up very quickly to being lined, especially after a few fish have been caught from an area.



Andy nets another hard fighting Duncton rainbow

Having caught his four fish limit Gary was now watching my floating line, mesmerised by the number of subtle indications I was getting. I was sure some of the fish were mouthing my fly while swimming towards me. It was very exciting, often I felt the line slowly get heavier before I felt an obvious take. All too soon my last fish was in the net, time for lunch. After our break, we purchased 'brace' tickets so we could continue fishing and explore the other lakes. The weather by now had deteriorated, the wind had freshened, and the drizzle was starting to feel more like proper rain! We now headed to Rosie Lake; this is a much larger water than Birch Lake, but the water is just as crystal clear. We positioned ourselves on the downwind bank. It appeared much shallower but my casts of fifteen to twenty yards [5 to 6m] didn't foul the bottom or pick up any weed or leaves to my surprise.

Again, the same countdown and retrieve with the Humungus saw me getting plenty of indications that I couldn't convert at first. Gary was convinced my fly was tripping the bottom, giving me false indications as by now I was getting so many takes, until I hooked a fish! After that I struggled to get another take, time to move. Gary switched flies and retrieves and found a combination that worked and caught his brace quite quickly. I changed casting positions a few times but as the sky darkened and the rain increased, I lost interest and decided that I'd had enough.

As we were leaving, Dan took a break from pruning to see how we had fared. He was pleased with our results as we were. Duncton Mill's new season starts on the weekend of March 25th & 26th. Needless to say, Gary and I are already booked in, for what looks like being a very special opening session!

Tight Lines, Andy Lush



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