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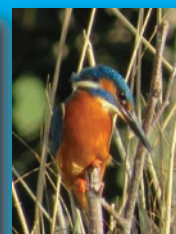
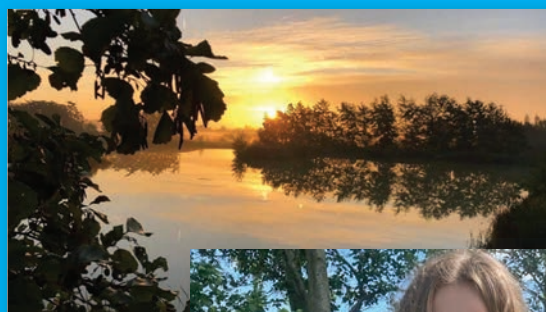


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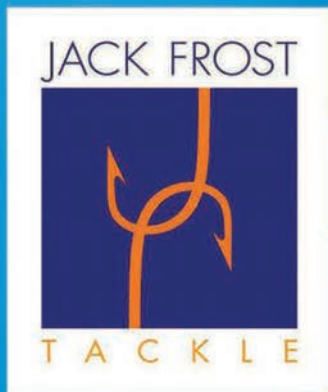
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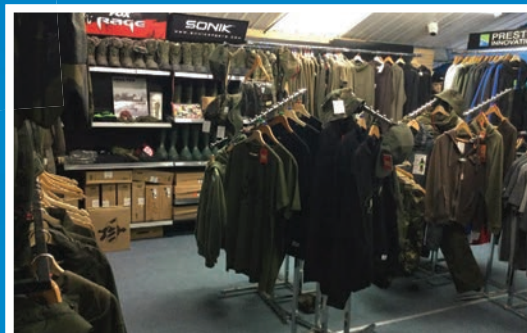
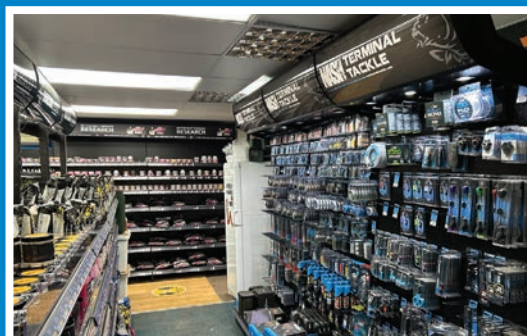


Jack Frost Tackle Crawley. Crawley's Premier fishing tackle shop for carp fishing, match fishing and sea fishing.

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- Surrey and Sussex Trakker & Nash Super Centres
- One of Sussex's biggest Superstores with two floors and 3,500 square feet
- Free Parking

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DETAILS**

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**NEW CLOTHING SHOWROOM NOW OPEN!**

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## Hello and welcome to the October edition of the Freshwater Informer

The summer may be drawing to a close but that doesn't mean that the fishing is. Autumn can be one of the most productive times of the year as temperatures start to drop and the days get shorter.

Quieter banks and longer feeding spells mean that October can be a prime time for a busy day on the bank.

Speaking of busy days, the Freshwater Informer, represented by Lee and Glen, were in attendance at the recent 'Kids In Mind, Angling Adventures' open weekend at Mousehole Lakes, nr Nettleshead. Also in attendance were representatives from Carp Basics, Swimbooker and Nash Tackle to name but three. A superb weekend to encourage and support young anglers. We are sure it won't be too long before some of the youngsters are sending in their catch reports to feature in the Junior Informer section of the magazine.

Alongside last month's announcement of Sussex Bait Developments sponsorship of the Junior Informer, we are now very pleased to reveal that well known local angler Carl Smith has offered to provide a monthly prize as well. Best known for his 'Fish With Carl' YouTube channel, Carl, along with his partner Omi, will be donating a signed copy of their book 'A Simple Fishing Guidebook' to the winner of the '12 and under' section of the competition. Check out the Junior Informer pages to see who the first lucky winner is. Also in this month's Junior section, Warren White writes about a young angler who, despite suffering life changing injuries, has the determination and positive attitude to get out fishing.

Bob Morris brings us up to speed with his recent fishing exploits. The Angling Trust offer advice on how to deal with the unsavoury topic of poaching and how we, as anglers, can get involved to prevent it. Russ Evans continues his 'How To' series with some brilliant insights on how to target big Bream. Andy Lush, fly rod in hand, is off to new waters and new challenges. Harry Sandercock, from Bodle tackle, details his run ins with both bass and the border force in what's proving to be a hectic season, in more ways than one, for this month's Sea Informer and Paul Wilby gives FWI the inside scoop on



Lee



Alex

what must rate as one of the most impressive catches of modern times. Four carp in under four hours, for a combined weight of nearly 200lbs. Truly a once in a lifetime trip.

Meanwhile the editor faces a challenge that I'm sure we've all faced as anglers. Walking into a tackle shop and trying to resist the temptation of new and shiny things. See just how weak his resolve is in this month's club article.

There are rumblings in the Trout section of the magazine as falling water temperatures mean that many fly fishing venues are readying themselves for the season ahead and we have our usual round-up of fisheries in the area.

Alongside that we have our readers catches and it's really pleasing to see some eels and barbel alongside the more usual species.

Have a great month.

*Tight Lines, Alex Coutts & Lee Nicoll*

### The Freshwater Informer

12 Marigold Avenue, Horebeech Lane, Horam TN21 9DF

email: [thefreshwaterinformer@gmail.com](mailto:thefreshwaterinformer@gmail.com)

Advertising – Lee 0787 3203998

Catch reports – Alex 07484 699437



**COPY DEADLINE for NOVEMBER 2023**

**MONDAY 23rd October 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!

For opening times please see website

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- MENS CUT £14
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- 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

Bowie's Barber Shop  
Davies Place, Sparrows Green  
Wadhurst TN5 6TE







Jamie Hayward, 36lb8oz Catfish, Orchard Place Farm



Paul Cockburn - 26lbs 6ozs Common, Farlows



Jack Mackenzie - 22lbs10ozs Common, Farlows



Tommy Humm - 30lbs 4ozs Common, Cackle Hill



Matt Dunster - 34lbs 12ozs Common, Gabriels Fishery

**5 lakes and  
1.25 miles  
of the  
River Eden**

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available**

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**SWALLOW LAKE  
& HARE LAKE**  
great for beginners



**Specimen Lake**  
**ADMIRAL LAKE**  
fish to 41lbs



**OAK LAKE**  
carp to 30lbs



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[www.gabriels-fishery.co.uk](http://www.gabriels-fishery.co.uk)



## Three generations of anglers

Three generations of the Siggs family enjoyed frantic sport when they fished together on Prairie Lake at Elphicks. Grandfather, **Jon** (L), son **Jason** (R) and 13 year old grandson **Charlie** (centre) caught plenty of fish, including a new **PB** of 28lbs for Charlie and topped by this memorable triple trophy shot.



## Winner, winner, chicken dinner

For so long associated with being a premium match water, Framfield Park Fishery is gaining an enviable reputation as one of the regions leading catfish venues. As if to prove the point, fishery regular **Pete Ellis** landed this behemoth of a catfish weighing in at an impressive 78lbs using chicken liver as bait to record a new **PB** for the species.







Jack Holden - 28lbs 8ozs Mirror Carp, Cotton Farm



Ryan Lamont - 24lbs Mirror Carp, Clay Pit



Harry Devell - Barbel, River Trent



Andrew Hall - First fish on a new rod



Caroline - Common Carp, Sandwich Lakes



Ralph Saunders - PB Mirror Carp, Maidstone



Ronald Davis - 32lbs 8ozs Catfish, Wintons

Eastbourne Road (A22),  
Newchapel, Lingfield, Surrey RH7 6HL  
Tel: 01342 324006  
Mobile: 07710 656041

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

Email:

[beaverfarmfishery@live.co.uk](mailto: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



## Hawkhurst Fish Farm

Hastings Road, Hawkhurst, Kent, TN18 4RT

### 2024 Match Lake bookings

We are now taking bookings for exclusive hire of our 20 peg match lake next year. It is very well stocked with carp from just ounces to over 12lb!



Exclusive hire: £175

or

£10 per 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



Marc Diamond - PB 25lbs 13ozs Catfish, Hawkhurst Fish Farm



Michael Diamond - 18lbs 13ozs Common Carp, Hawkhurst Fish Farm

## Horam Manor Fishery

10 secluded lakes in the Sussex countryside

Mixed coarse fishery with carp to mid 20s  
Perfect for families and experienced anglers

Day ticket fishing - Dawn to Dusk - Only £5 per rod!



24 hour fishing  
by prior arrangement  
Non-members £20  
Members £10

Annual Day Ticket membership 1 rod - £80 / 2 rods - £120

Buy a whip, bait + Day Ticket for just £15!

**f** Horam Manor Farm, Horam TN21 0JB  
01323 840889 / 07707 759364 **o**  
www.horammanorfishery.com



### WANTSUM ANGLING ASSOCIATION

Marshside Lakes - River Wantsum - River Stour

#### Our folio of delightful waters include:

River Wantsum CT7 0QN / a section of the River Stour CT3 1JB  
Marshside Fishery: Homersham Lake & Scroggins Lake CT3 4EB

#### Day Tickets available at all venues:

RIVERS: Adult £5 (Juniors to 16 years FOC)

LAKES: Adult £10 with loyalty card £7

Junior (aged 14-16 years inc.) £5

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

Night Fishing 24 hours:

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

#### Night fishing: Only by prior booking.

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



Contact Wantsum Angling Association on 01227 678063

or visit us at

**www.wantsumaa.co.uk**

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





**PRICES**

DAY TICKET X2 RODS - £15  
 DAY TICKET X3 RODS - £20  
 24 HOUR TICKET X2 RODS - £25  
 24 HOUR TICKET X3 RODS - £30  
 36 HOUR TICKET X2 / X3 RODS - £40 / £50  
 48 HOUR TICKET X2 / X3 RODS - £50 / £60

**NEW LAKE NOW OPEN**  
**ALL LAKES DISABLED FRIENDLY!**



# 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.



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







## ORCHARD PLACE FARM FISHING

13 FISHING LAKES in the KENT COUNTRYSIDE

Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6NY



**Carp to 49lb+**

**01892 838576 or 07860 608218**



**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](http://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



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

Carp  
to 38lbs

Top Lake  
Catfish to 85lbs

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

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





Ben Hogben - 39lbs 8ozs Mirror Carp, SBD Hulk Boilies



Mark - 34lbs Common Carp, Gabriels Fishery



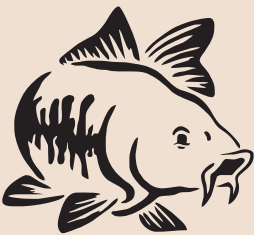
Chris Mack - 28lbs Grass Carp, Elphicks



Bill - 11lbs Common Carp, Sandwich Lakes



Dorothy Robinson - 11lbs Common Carp, Wylands



# 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

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[www.shirkoakfarm.com](http://www.shirkoakfarm.com)

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Hugh on **07973 410973**  
or **01233 860279**



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A warm welcome and a great deal awaits you!

**IF SELLING, PLEASE PHONE BEFORE VISITING**

### An unusual approach

Boilies aren't a bait that are usually associated with big eels but that didn't stop **Sean Eldridge** from catching a brace of specimen sized 'snakes' during a session at Beechborough Lakes. Twice inside half an hour, whilst targeting the venues carp, his hookbaits were picked up by big eels. First by this specimen of 6lbs 2ozs and a little later by a slightly smaller one of 4lbs. Maybe Sean is on to something?



Andrew Hall - 20lbs 1oz Common Carp, Pittlands



Lee - 24lbs Leather Carp, Gabriels Fishery



## Claygate Lakes Claygate, Marden, Kent

**Lake Sophie** Well as everyone knows it's been a really hot summer but the tench have still been showing around the lakes with corn worms and prawns working. Carp on the bottom in the morning and try off the top in the afternoon.

**Lake Amy** Jack has had a few good sessions after finding a hole in the lake bed, managing 11 fish off of just one rod. Bags of pellet with a waffer seem to be worth a try. **Matthew Good** had a smile on his face after catching a fish known as 'Borris'!

**Lake Eva** Method feeder in the morning is worth a try with small pop ups or pellets. Floating baits in the afternoon have also been working well.

**CLAYGATE MEMBERSHIP:** We are a day/night ticket fishing but due to the cost of living we are offering 12 months membership on all lakes. Why not pop down on a weekend to discuss membership details and have a look around.

**SNACK WAGON:** Mon - Sun hot & cold drinks inc snacks. Sat & Sun hot & cold food served

**WC'S & SHOWERS:** Separate men & women's open all week.

**FACEBOOK:** Pop on to dave claygate for the latest catches



## New Claygate Lakes

**DAY & NIGHT FISHING - TN12 9PL**

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**NIGHT FISHING ON ALL LAKES**

ON-SITE  
FOOD  
UNIT



**LAKE AMY** - Carp to over 40lbs



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



**LAKE SOPHIE** match/pleasure - Carp 16lb+ Tench 8lb+ Chub 5lb+ Barbel 4lb+ Perch 3lb+ Bream 11lb+ Roach 2lb+ Skimmer Bream and other silvers



[www.newclaygatelakes.co.uk](http://www.newclaygatelakes.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](http://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

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INCLUSIVE FISHING AND ACCOMODATION PACKAGES AT GREAT PRICES

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TOILET AND SHOWER FACILITIES

NEWLY OPENED FARM SHOP

**Wylands  
FARM**

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**Greenacres Farm Fishery** Biddenden, Kent

*Now doing coaching courses for all ages,  
please call: 07933 934942 for full details!!!!*

**Speci 1** Still some very good fish being caught over a small bed off pellet or using solid pva bags. Preferred choice of bait at the minute seems to be frozen 15mm krill boilies from sticky baits, but like I say to everyone that turns up use what ever you have confidence in and the fish should show. And don't forget we have some lovely perch in here well over the 3lbs mark with the biggest so far being 5lbs 3ozs.

**Speci 2** The catfish are coming out during the day, with the majority of them showing at night over large baited areas of halibut pellet mixed with a fishy plug. Choice of hookbaits at the minute for the catfish seems to be Sticky Krill, CC Moore Pacific Tuna and 21mm Robin Red halibut pellets. Carp are being caught on small baited areas from the margins rather than open water as the catfish are picking up the baits before the carp. Stick to fruity baits or imitation corn for the carp as this seems to keep the catfish at bay for a longer period of time.

**Heron Lake** This lake is fishing really well for a big bag of mixed fish either on the quiver or float fishing (don't ignore the margins) if you want the bigger carp. Smaller baits work best in here for all species of fish including the carp rather than the 15mm boilies that tend to get used. This lake can also be booked up for matches if you give us a call.

**Kingfisher Lake** This is a very good lake if you are starting up fishing for the first time as it is full of fish and keeps you busy all day. Main baits to use on here is pellets, paste, corn, maggots, luncheon meat or maggots/worms over a bed of groundbait. This lake can also be booked up for matches if you give us a call.

**Bluebell Lake** A very unique pond tucked out the way, this lake holds a good head of lovely tench to 6lbs and carp to 10lbs with a few other surprises. This lake is very peaceful and can produce a large bag of fish at certain times of the year so be prepared.



**Fishery Rules :** Dip all nets, sling and cradles upon arrival before going to any of the lakes or get a lifetime ban - (CCTV IN OPERATION). No takeaways after 6PM. No bins on site so take all your rubbish home including fag butts. No keepnets unless authorised by member of staff. Single hooks when pike fishing - NO TREBLES. Please read all rules for all lakes at : [www.greenacresfarmfishery.co.uk](http://www.greenacresfarmfishery.co.uk)





# GREENACRES FARM FISHERY



Sissinghurst Road | Biddenden | Kent | TN27 8EH

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

*This beautiful setting needs to be visited and enjoyed!*

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

Gates open at 7am and close at 7pm

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

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

or visit our website **[www.greenacresfarmfishery.co.uk](http://www.greenacresfarmfishery.co.uk)**

Email : [greenacresfarmfishery@gmail.com](mailto:greenacresfarmfishery@gmail.com)







# swimbooker

## Less Hassle. More Fishing.

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

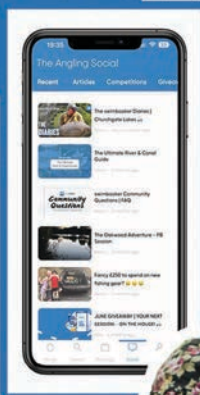
Fishery Management Dashboard	✓
Android + Apple Mobile Apps	✓
Powerful Membership Management	✓
Free To Anglers	✓
Direct Angler Support	✓
SwimView™ Gallery	✓
Lake Exclusive Bookings	✓
Unlimited System User Accounts	✓
Colour Coded Availability Calendar	✓
Customisable Ticket Types	✓

+ So much more...

### REALISTIC DRONE MAPS



### CONTENT FEED



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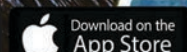
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# Twenty four hours at Elphicks Fishery... ...in session with Paul Wilby

**Elphicks Fisheries, at Horsmonden, in Kent has an enviable reputation as one of the South East's, if not the country's, premier big carp waters. With three of their lakes offering a chance of fish in excess of 50lbs and the remaining waters containing specimens between 30-40lbs, it can be the place where dreams are made. This month the Freshwater Informer joins Paul Wilby, who made the long trip down from Suffolk, for what turned out to be a once in a lifetime session.**

**4am** With the van loaded the previous evening, it was time to hit the road for the long journey down to Kent. The M11 and M25 might not be the most exciting roads in the country but thinking about my tactics and the potential rewards broke up the monotony of endless stream of early morning traffic

**7am** Arriving at Elphicks, I pulled up at the fishery lodge to sign in and meet up with the rest of my group. The six of us had booked North Lake on an exclusive use basis. After catching up on the usual pleasantries it was time to make our way through the barrier and up to the lake.

**7:30am** As the 'original' specimen lake on complex, the 6 acre North Lake is probably the best known water on the fishery. Wider and deeper at the dam end, it narrows and shallows towards the top end. The two islands being the most obvious features.

**7:45am** After a quick look around we gathered to make a draw for swims. With 19 swims to choose from between the six of us things were never going to get too crowded but its always nice to have first pick! True to form, I came out the bag fifth...

Not much in the way of fish activity had been seen on the walk round, with most of the group going off prior knowledge. On my one previous visit to Elphicks I had blanked in the shallows and so fancied a crack at the deeper end of the lake. With most Anglers choosing to fish on the road bank, I plumped for a swim on the far side that offered plenty of open water between the second island and the dam.

**8:30am** With all my gear unloaded, I set about getting the rods out before setting up camp. With not a lot to go on and not a lot of time to make things happen, I opted to cast out my left-hand and middle rods with high attract singles. The right hand rod went down the margin over a baiting spoon of hemp and corn. Once the rods were in I got the bivvy up and the kettle on.

**1pm** A couple of guys on the road bank had managed fish. Nothing big (relatively speaking) but it certainly proved the worth of local knowledge, as they lived much closer to the venue than me and had fished it far more often. It was clear that there was a number of fish moving between the second island and the dam and that they were picking them off as they went.

**3pm** Still no action on any of my rods but as I sat in the front of my bivvy scanning the water I saw a very subtle show a couple of swims to the left of me.

**7pm** Redoing the rods for the night I was torn. I had seen a couple more shows up to the left, one a very large ghost carp, but the spot wasn't fishable from the swim I was in. At the same time, the fish on the road bank side seemed to have settled in the dam area, bringing them much closer to my baits. I figured that at some point they would move off the angling pressure from that side of the lake and I would benefit directly. For that reason I decided to sit tight for the night.

**6am** I awoke to silent alarms. The guys on the road bank had managed to hold the fish on their side of the lake and take full advantage by landing a number of fish. Frustrating, but good angling on their part. Brew in hand, I took a walk up to the left. It was hard to tell in the early morning light but I was sure I could see the odd tell tale bubble and swirl where i had seen the carp show the previous day.

## Elphicks Fisheries



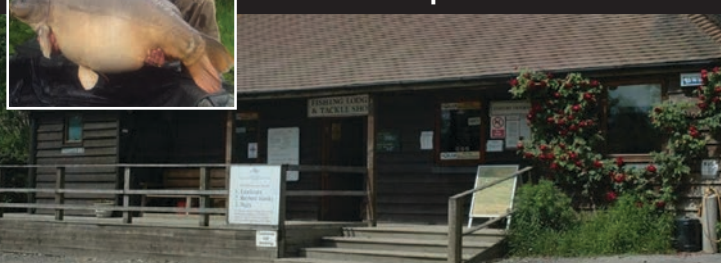
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**8:30am** We gathered in a communal swim for breakfast and to catch up on the previous nights captures. I mentioned the large ghost carp I had seen. One of the guys recognised my description and promptly informed me that if it was the fish he was thinking of, it was a known fifty. I don't think I've ever eaten a bacon sandwich quicker in my life before I hurriedly made my way back to my swim to hatch a plan.

**9:30am** After creeping back to the spot, I focused on the area where I had seen the shows. It was only around 25yds off the bank. Near enough to see but far enough to not be sure. The longer I looked, the more I saw and the clearer the picture became. There was definitely still fish in the area and when the massive ghostie rose into view, I knew that I the chance of a new Personal Best was on the cards.

**10am** This was going to be very much a 'one shot' scenario, so I wanted to make sure that everything was right. I reeled in my rods and decided to use just one of them on the new spot. A custom Harrison Torrix 2.75lb rod, combined with a QDX Diawa reel, loaded with 18lb Korda Kontour fluorocarbon mainline to which I attached a lead clip with a 1.5oz lead and a size 6 spinner rig on a stiff boom. Bait was a trimmed down Sticky Baits manilla wafter.

**10:30am** Although not a difficult cast, I opted to use my Nash bushwhacker baiting pole to ease the hookbait into position, along with a handful of hemp and corn, so as to minimise any disturbance and risk spooking the fish. Leaving the mainline slack meant that the weight of the fluorocarbon settled to the lake bed and I placed the rod in the alarm on a single bankstick.



*Paul With His First Fifty Of The Trip*

**10:45am** The old adage of 'ten minutes in the right place is worth ten hours in the wrong' came true as barely had the bobbin had time to settle before it rose up and the alarm sounded. Lifting the rod and bending into the fish, it was clear from the off that this was something special. No screaming runs or crazy direction changes, just a steady, determined and unstoppable force that hugged the bottom and slowly moved out into the lake. With the fish kiting towards the right, it was easier to follow it and play it from the next swim down. After what seemed like an eternity the carp started to tire and instead of the expected ghostie, it was a large dark backed mirror carp that broke the surface. If I'd missed out on a fifty, I'd done it in some style! At 46lbs, the fish was a new PB and an awesome way to save a blank.

**11:30am** After returning the fish, it occurred to me that lightning might strike twice, as the nature of the fight meant that the spot was relatively undisturbed. I followed the same routine of baiting pole, hemp and corn and unbelievably had the same result. This second fish followed a similar pattern to the first, hugging the bottom and chugging out towards the centre of the lake. If anything, it felt even bigger! After what felt like an eternity, I had



*The session just kept giving  
- 42lbs PB Common*

the fish close to the bank and was able to make out very large scales, on a very large flank, as the fish did its utmost to avoid the net. Eventually my persistence paid off and I was able to scoop the net under another massive carp. My new PB had stood for less than an hour before I was holding up a truly massive 54lbs 2ozs mirror for the camera. A lake of dreams indeed!

**12:30pm** With the ghostie still on my mind, I put the rod back on the spot. Third time lucky? One of the others was sitting with me and reckoned that that fish was probably long gone. I jokingly replied that I didn't mind too much and would settle for a big common. Well 'ask and you shall receive' the bobbin twitched, settled, then rose again as another hefty carp took off. Following the same pattern, the fish was netted well away from the spot and you could have knocked me over with a feather when the mesh was peeled back to reveal a monstrous common carp. At a shade over 42lbs my third personal best of the day. What an incredible session this was turning out to be.

**1pm** I took a few moments for a brew and to gather my thoughts and make sense of the previous few hours. One spot, three casts, three fish, three personal bests.

**1:30pm** With only a few hours left before I had to leave I made my way back to the swim. On the one hand, I'd caught more than my fill, on the other, opportunities for a session like this are a very rare occurrence and there was still a chance...

Shipping out the rig, with a handful of bait, I sunk the line and clipped on the bobbin. It took a little longer this time but just as I thought things couldn't get any better, the alarm sounded and the bobbin clattered against the rod as yet another fish made a bid for freedom. This fight was different. Not because it was any easier but because the distinctive colour of the fish made it easy to see as it powered off the spot. A fish that I already knew was another fifty - the big ghostie. Every twist, every turn was amplified, I was sure I would lose it as the line pinged off its fins. Surely my luck couldn't hold. But it did and to cap off a remarkable session the fish, which had alerted me to the spot the previous day, now lay in the bottom of my landing net. Immense and immaculate at 52lbs 3ozs it was a phenomenal way to end my trip.

**Tired but happy, I packed up and headed for home.**



*The icing on the cake, a 52lbs 3ozs Ghostie*



# The Golden Years of Coarse Fishing

by Bob Rolph

## An old friend lost, and an old friend regained!

*The carp fishing world is still in shock by the untimely death of the great Chris Ball from Hampshire on August 7th last. As I have recently returned from his funeral at New Milton, where over 300 mourned his passing with anecdotes, and memories from his three sons and members of the carp society, of which he was President, the banter, which Chris would have loved reminded us all of his high standing in the world of carp fishing and carp history. He was undoubtedly one of the all time greats of carp fishing, rivalled only by the Walkers, Hilton's and Hutchinson's of the fishing world, all sadly gone now to the big carp lake in the sky.*



*Chris Ball holding court, as he did...*

The 'Wake' at a nearby fishery with great facilities. (Orchard Lakes), was well attended, and Chris would have loved it all, holding court on the merits of each swim and how near it was to his new home. I don't think that he actually fished here much, preferring the syndicate pits up the Avon Valley, and lakes at Chichester and Walhampton, all near to where Jack Hargreaves and Trevor Housby used too, I visited his carp room at Pilley, but regret not having got round to seeing his new room at Fawn Close, New Milton, where every item on display had a story, and Chris was pleased to tell you of it! My journey down to Hampshire took over 3 hours, and the 145 mile trek from Canterbury reminded me of the days 60 years ago now when I did it regularly in my old green A35 van to fish the Royalty Fishery at Christchurch during week ends in October.

I lived in Bromley then in my family home, and so 50 miles could be taken off the journey in those far off days of youth. I had just passed my driving test, so such long expeditions were a joy on the uncluttered A roads of the 1960s, travelling over the Hoggs Back, Guildford and Romsey, and only cost £1 s worth of petrol there and back!

Maggots were £1-10 shillings a gallon in the old silver biscuit tin, full to the brim with sawdust and bran, and they were big uns in those days, no coloured ones or squats, just huge juicy maggots with 2 large 'eyes' between which you placed your hook!

Nick Papps and I caught chub, barbel, dace and sea trout, and it was to his house at Chandlers Ford that I arrived 3 hours before the funeral on Tues Aug 29th, to change, and meet up with him for the first time in 55 years. He had never forgotten the barbel of the Hampshire Avon, and was now a proud owner of a syndicate ticket for the prestigious Somerley Estate fishery at Ibsley. We were to go there the following day, Nick to fish, and me to just observe and dream!

Chris Ball had a Somerley ticket, but for the carp pit over the road at Mockbeggar Lake between Ibsley and Ringwood. He used to email me pictures of all the huge carp he caught on a regular basis, and I was so jealous. His skill 'off the top' was unsurpassed, and his last photo came over to me on July 2nd, a fine 24lbs common, sadly it also came with news of his cancer diagnosis.

I left the Wake in the pouring rain early and travelled over to Eastley to meet up with Nick and his wife Maggie, at the Cricketers Pub, where a quiz and a hearty meal awaited me. I was not much help to the quiz team, but stories of football, cricket, golf and fishing made it a very entertaining evening.



Nick and I stayed up late into the night catching up on all our tales of past fishing trips and what we had both been up to during the intervening years. We left for the Avon after an early breakfast, and within half an hour's drive from his house we were entering the gates of the Somerley Estate, driving over the private wooden bridge and parking in one of the fisherman car parks. It looked like we were the only ones there, until Andy Little came over to have a chat. He is a master of the Avon Barbel scene along with Pete Reading, having taken numerous fish to over 18lbs this season, and huge chub to nearly 8lbs.

Nick Papps is no mean angler, and catches good chub and barbel during his less frequent visits to this exclusive water. He caught his first barbel from the Royalty as a 17 year old boy with me in 1966, a fine fish of 8lbs 6ozs, and now, living as he does in Hampshire fishes the Avon, and River Frome for Grayling in the winter months. He never lost his interest in river fishing despite living and working abroad for many years.

The river was flowing well, and very clear, fish clearly showing over the gravel beds where baiting up with pellets encouraged them to congregate, and they were very visible with Polaroid

glasses on. I had left mine at home not realising just how clear the water was to be. With the News of all the river pollution I have never expected the water to be in such good order, and there was no sign to me of any trouble in that respect. Chub and huge Bream could be clearly seen in the bright morning sun, I never knew there were double figure bream in the Hampshire Avon, and huge carp so I was told. Anyway, Nick set up one rod with rigs more suitable to carp fishing, or so I thought!

Hair rigs and double pellets, and braid and superglue and the like! I am so out of touch in the modern ways of fishing. It was not easy. A few takes but no fish, until Andy Little gave him a few tips on hook lengths and lead weight size! 3-4oz leads, I didn't know we were beachcasting, I'm so out of touch!

The outcome of all this was a beautiful 5lbs 9ozs chub which I duly netted for Nick, and he went home happy, and I had learned so much about modern chub and barbel fishing. Next year I hope to be invited to actually fish on this exclusive beat of river, with a very sought after guest fishing ticket at £20. The Redmire of the river world, with a waiting list of 400 so I've been told. I'll be dead by then, but I've seen it and I've netted a Somerley Chub, and I've netted a big Redmire carp,

So all in all a very eventful, if sad, 3 days in Hampshire. Chris would have loved it all, I will never forget him, the most inspirational angler that I have ever had the privilege to meet.



*Nick Papps with a 5lbs 9ozs Somerley Chub*

*Bob Rolph*



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# HARDY Marksman

Specimen  
Sn

***Need and want are two very different things and as soon as I saw the distinctive tri-handle of a Hardy Conquest Centrepin on the reel rack at Trade-in-Tackle it was very much a case of want...***

I was delivering the September issue of the Freshwater Informer to this hidden gem of a tackle shop, at Watlington, and when the owner Trevor, with a wry smile, nodded in the direction of three Hardy Marksman rods he had just acquired, need became must have!

Trevor let me set the rods up and looked on with an amused expression as I wiggled and waggled, spun spools and waxed lyrical about perfect balance, as I fought imaginary fish in the middle of the tackle shop.

I still had over 1000 miles of deliveries to complete which, I reasoned, would give me ample time to justify the 'need'. Over the next few days I wrestled with my conscience and bank balance, performing mental backflips to justify owning a piece of Hardys history. In the end I settled on the fact that on a couple of occasions my usual 10ft rods hadn't been quite long enough to fish effectively and owning an 11ft 6' rod would make me a much better angler and as my rods are already paired with reels I would 'need' the reel as well.

And so it was that at the end of deliveries, I found myself taking the scenic route home which just happened to go past Trade In Tackle. A quick chat with Trevor before he had a little more in his till, a little less on his shelves and I was grinning like a Cheshire cat as I left laden with boxes and rod tubes.

A new rod and reel meant a hastily planned fishing trip and with a few hours spare later in the week, I made my way to a local club water. Although a favourite of mine, this was my first visit of the season to the lake and I was almost as excited about seeing this special place as I was trying out my new rod and reel. I arrived bankside, breathless in anticipation, after the short wooded walk from the carpark.

Settling on an area well away from the other anglers present, I introduced a few handfuls of sweetcorn into three likely looking spots. In places, the water of this old estate lake is gin clear, meaning that you can keep a close eye on any fish movements. Although the time of year meant that the main body of the lake had taken on a rather murky hue.

I always find that been next to water has a tremendously calming effect on me and after all of the huffing and puffing to get there, I could draw breath, take in my surroundings and appreciate the workmanship as I set up my new acquisitions. The sunlight picking out the subtle gold detailing on the deep olive blank as I fixed the freshly loaded reel to the reel seat. A simple float set up, finished with a size 12 barbless hook and baited with a single grain of corn was all that was needed at the business end.

I fished the middle spot first and almost immediately the float buried and an angry little F1 came splashing to the net. Several more followed, with a couple looking like 'true' crucians, but in my experience, if they don't look quite right at first glance then they are



**The Distinctive  
'Tri-Handled' Hardy Conquest Reel**

**Aquarium like - a tench hovers into view**



probably not. Every few fish, I would stop and go and bait the other spots with half a dozen grains of corn. The first spot was crystal clear, separated from the main body of the lake by a huge pontoon of weed. Aquarium like, I could see a pair of tench drifting in and out from under this weed, occasionally dipping down to take a freebie here and there.

Having tested the sensitive tip section of the rod with the F1's, I felt I was ready to see how the 'middle' would respond to being put under some pressure. Sneaking into position, I waited for the brace of tench to go about their rounds before lowering the hookbait onto a bright, gleaming spot, just a few yards from the bank. The pair returned, I focused intently, barely daring to breath as they approached my trap. The first paused, contemplating the hookbait and almost causing me to strike, before flaring his fins and slowly moving on. His companion, perhaps unsighted, had no such reservations and dove down, devouring the bait on sight. Although not of a specimen size, the confined nature of the swim meant that I had to clamp down on the spool to prevent the fish from taking too much line. The rod and reel performed admirably, absorbing the lunges as the fish sought to gain sanctuary in the weed but steady pressure won the day and soon saw her in the net.



With both the 'tip' and the 'middle' passing the test, now it was time to up the ante. The third spot I had baited was in a more coloured area of the lake. Although I'd seen no fish there, plumes of silt erupted amongst sheets of bubbles, giving away their presence over where I had baited. I waited for the disturbance to subside before swinging out my end tackle to the spot. Unsure as to whether it was tench or carp responsible, I scanned the area intently. The question was soon answered as a dark common carp submarined into view, small puffs of silt coming from its gills as it filtered out a mouthful of sweetcorn. It slowly circled before descending again. The float submerging as a cloud of silt arose.

A firm strike was met with an equally firm resistance and the rod bucked as a sizeable adversary ploughed through a small weed bed and out into open water. Thumbing the spool had little effect and the carp continued on its charge as the line ticked off the reel. Clamping down hard arrested his progress and the rod displayed its full fighting curve. No lock ups or dead spots, just a steady and unrelenting reserve of power, turning the battle in my favour. The fish made a number of runs but on each occasion they became less extreme as my new rod and reel gradually brought the situation under control. Eventually I had the fish under the rod tip. Heavy swirls and vortexes threw up huge clouds of silt mixed with fronds of weed as the carp tried in vain to bury itself in the lake bed but there was to be only one outcome that ended with the fish nestled in the mesh of my landing net. A dark black back gave way to bronze flanks and a gold hued belly. I admired my quarry and reflected on the fight. Surely a lesser rod and reel wouldn't have been up to the task? My purchase had been justified - **I did NEED the Hardy after all.**



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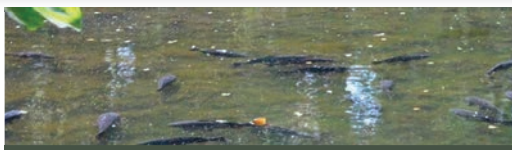
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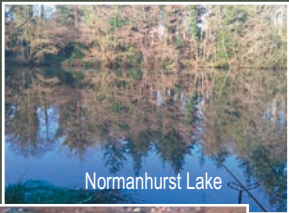


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For further details contact: **Jason Tuckey on 07983 569220** e-mail: lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk

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# A guide to chasing Big

**Bream are not everyone's cup of tea but I personally just switch off the feed to the point where you think they have finished and then the angler can be in for a bumper sized catch resulting in a big day.**

Back in the Spring I targeted a big and very deep gravel pit that holds some big shoals of bream and I was fishing over a space of 3 to 4 weeks to see what I could catch with a double figure fish being the target. I was hoping if I could land some nice slabs on camera. I had been keeping my eye on the weather forecasts for a few weeks. On the basis that fish follow the wind it was time to get the tackle out and put the effort in. I spombed 20 times of a medium size spomb out over three lines with a mix of *Mirage Baits* spod mix and a mix of liquid molasses and oily hemp. That feed mix was going to lay down a nice grassy area.

## The Tactics and Tackle set up

My plan was to fish with a 3 rod approach on my Fox rod rest and alarms, a set up that has served me well fishing for a variety of species which it was I like to do now. The rods were 12ft Advanta specialist rods of the 2lbs tc variety, they are quite cheap at £34 each (on offer) and I like the nice soft action they provide especially when bream fishing. They are powerful enough to punch out a big feeder with ease but also provide a balanced action should I hook into any big carp. My reels are Shimano 6000s loaded with 12lbs Diawa Sensor mainline which I find is a very strong line that to date has never let me down especially when lots of casting is needed. Being as I like to experiment with my fishing especially when targeting big bream I started the session fishing with different baits to see if one of the baits was performing better than the other. I was fishing a 60 hour session so I had plenty of time to find out if one particular bait was outdoing any of the others. On my left hand rod I placed a piece of Korda slow sinking banoffee white fake corn on a spike to a size 14s guru hook to 8lbs fluorocarbon in conjunction with a 30g guru cage feeder. My second rod was a helicopter style set up with a 12mm boilie hair rigged to a size 14s guru hook and 30g guru cage feeder. The final rod would consist of another helicopter style set up as per rod two but with a worm kebab as bait. Three very simple and effective set ups that have served me well in past sessions and with the wind still blowing in the same direction as the previous three weeks there was a nice chop on the water and I was feeling confident. One thing I must add with regards to my feeding is after the initial spodding session at the start I switched the spomb for a large guru 40g feeder attached to 50lbs braid and fed that way for the rest of my stay. When it comes to bream I just don't like to spomb anymore over their heads when they are feeding as I have found to my cost in the past they get a bit spooky and finicky. The casting out of the big bait up feeder just mimics my other rods plus it also guarantees hitting the spot that my other rods are hitting at range as well. It gives me more confidence and seems to increase my catch rate from sessions gone by.

## The Action starts and it gets Manic

After the initial feeding at the start and my three rods in place some thirty minutes pass before my left hand rod bursts into action and a nice bream is thumping away on the other end. Bream fishing in deep water and watching the rod bent right over with a big thump of the head shake to me is a great way to fish for the bream especially when they seem to average in the 6 to 7lbs bracket, they are big fish that give a good account of themselves. The first bream weighs in at 7lbs 10oz, a good start indeed and that is quickly followed by a second bream of the same size again on the white corn bait which is counter balanced and sits up nicely just off the bottom and easily sucked up by the hungry bream. The boilie rod joins in the fun and I am being kept very busy as well as trying to film some of the action and take catch shots. With an hour or so gone all three rods have caught fish but I give it another hour before I decide whether to switch baits to just one type of bait or maybe two choices on the menu?



# Bream with Russ Evans

Just love fishing for them, they are moody and at times have completely vanished. However get it right and the fishing in getting through large amounts of bait.

With rumours of doubles being caught. That caught my attention and I put a few night sessions in. On a couple of my sessions I did some filming for my You Tube channel *Fishing Tail Films* to see what mostly on the wind direction which was blowing in a North Westerly direction for a good three hours. I was fishing in approx 20ft depth of water at 10 wraps of a 12ft rod and at the start of the session I used a mix of hemp and crushed boilies plus whole boilies and a handful of red maggots mixed up in a small area for the big shoals of bream should they move in over the top and they did.

The action is frantic and I reduce my rods from three down to two removing the worm kebab rig rod as it takes up more time to keep rebaiting and the size of fish are roughly the same on all baits anyhow. With more bream coming thick and fast I make another decision and put both rods on boilies, one with the *Mirage Baits* 'The Smell' and a *Mainline* Essential Cell boilie, both 12mm. As late afternoon approaches the action slows down a tad but the bream are getting slightly bigger and I slip the net under a cracking looking fish of 8lbs 2oz but it is on the second day of the session that I catch my biggest bream of 9lbs 7oz and what a fantastic young fish it looked with its bronze flanks, he is sure to be a big double come next season. The session was a brilliant one with 67 bream between 5lbs up to the 9lbs 7oz with a good majority of the bream weighing in the 7lbs bracket. I also had a few big hybrids as well which fight like mad and a solitary roach of a pound made an appearance as well. It was interesting that only 3 of the bream came during the nights when the pit went flat calm after the wind had dropped; to be honest I was relieved as I needed sleep after what were frantic days of action. By keeping an interest on the weather and wind direction and following your gut feelings I think is probably one of the best ways to enjoy a successful session no matter what species you like to catch at any time of the season. It certainly worked for me on this particular bream trip with a massive haul and PB bream.

## Autumn and Winter is going to be great

With autumn and winter fast approaching I must admit that my season will start to kick off in a big way as I will be targeting some more big Roach waters and already I am planning for some big Perch trips which really do bring out the passion in me. As someone who fishes less in the Summer months these days it does give me time to start researching new venues to visit and also I want to fit in a couple of Winter Chub sessions on the Upper Medway and Father Thames around Oxford. With a trip out with The Perchfishers in October on the river Lea, an old stomping ground of mine, I have plenty to look forward to and hopefully you will also have some special places to try this coming autumn and winter.

If you manage to have the time to check out my '*Fishing Tail Film*' You Tube channel and you enjoy the videos please *Like and Subscribe* as it certainly drives me on to film some more.

**Thank You and Tight Lines, Russ Evans**

*fishing tail films*  
RUSS EVANS



# Restoring and protecting freshwater ecosystems, and our 'mental ecosystems' too

*Fishing in a secluded natural setting brings a different dimension beyond just the sport itself. Uninterrupted peace, amidst the melodic birdsong - a haven for wildlife and humans alike. The serenity of life in this moment is your only focus. You pause and inhale the crisp fresh morning air. As the golden sun rays emerge from between the trees and reflect upon the tranquil stream fed lake in front of you, you in turn take time to reflect. A chance to detach from the bustle of modern life and return to a simplicity formed long ago in the natural beauty that surrounds you. Einstein said, "Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better".*

This sentiment is very much at the heart of what the team at Furnace Brook Fishery aim to do, working in harmony with the natural world and its multifaceted ecosystems and providing a sanctuary for anglers and the biodiversity that they in turn can help support.

Nestled in a secluded valley within the protected landscape of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in East Sussex, Furnace Brook operates as a Community Interest Company where, in addition to the running of the fishery and fish farm, the team are working with partners on a range of regenerative design approaches, researching and prototyping models for sustainable living & supporting resilient communities. The site acts as a hub for a range of emerging sustainably focused micro-enterprises, including a craft brewery, as well as offering land based courses and venue-hire.

The ongoing management plan of the fishery is particularly focused on enhancing the ecosystem of the main lake, enriching, and creating an environment for the fish to thrive in. The diverse aquatic ecosystem includes a very wide variety of fish species, helping provide a perfect fishing experience for visiting anglers. Whilst there are many fine healthy Carp specimens in the lake this is not a Carp Fishery but rather a Mixed Coarse Fishery. The wide variety of other species include Roach, Rudd, Perch, Crucian Carp, Barbel and Tench alongside the occasional Trout which enter the lake from the brook that constantly feeds the lake, helping maintain exemplary water quality throughout the year. In addition to



**A haven for wildlife, including Kingfishers**



**A view of the lake**



**Batsford Hollow - the perfect escape**



the 17 widely spread apart established swims there has been work undertaken in recent years to shape a particularly unusual overnight fishing experience for small groups of anglers at 'Batsford Hollow' (at the northern end of the lake). This secluded area around an island, following desilting and sensitive landscaping works (including the shaping of some new shelters and swims) is now an ideal environment for not only the fish to flourish but also anglers to experience the benefits of 'ecotherapy'!

Research studies show how angling is very much a form of ecotherapy. Fishing can even be prescribed through a GP as part of an alternative social prescribing initiative to help improve mental and physical health. There is also an increasing body of research showing that immersing yourself amongst trees can reduce your blood pressure and stress levels, improve your metabolic health, lower your blood sugar levels and improve your pain response. Trees produce natural oils called phytoncides, these oils can lower the symptoms of depression & anxiety, improve mood and

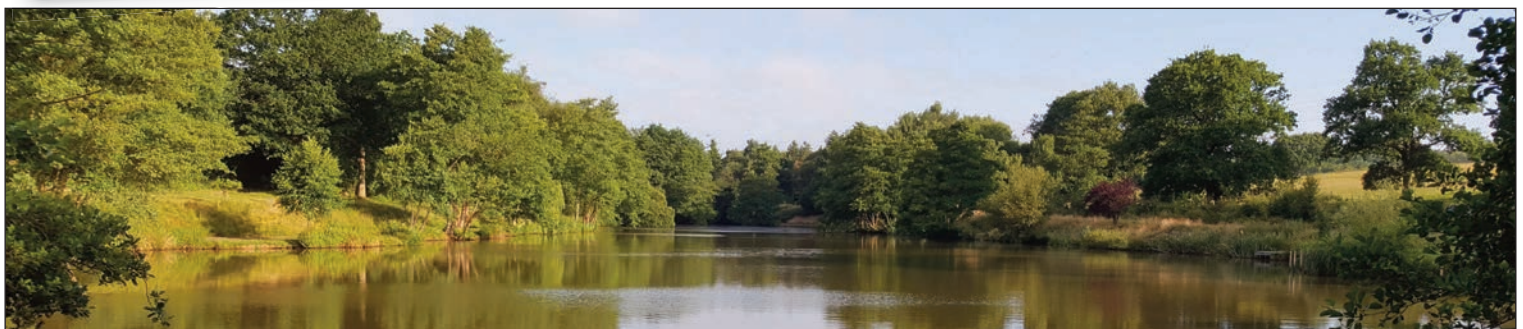


Tench, one of many species at Furnace Brook



increase concentration & memory. The pace of life in these times can often be exhausting. Taking a step back and retreating to a gentler pace of living, even for a few hours, can be enough to instil a deeper sense of restfulness and a much-needed rejuvenation. We hope that Furnace Brook provides that setting to connect with your inner space. A setting that creates a path for us to rediscover and enhance that connection to nature and in turn engage in ways that also help to replenish our natural surroundings. It is easy to share our enthusiasm for protecting and establishing healthy ecologies when this helps increase biodiversity; making happier fish and happier anglers!

**Discover more on our website at [www.furnacebrook.co.uk](http://www.furnacebrook.co.uk) and follow us on our various social media channels to stay up to date with news and progress.**



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- Showers

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Day & overnight tickets

### Facilities:

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- Parking close to lake
- Catering facilities
- Showers





## Sea Informer with Harry Sandercock of Bodle Angling



Harry with his first ever Tope

The Bass fishing has been brilliant off the SIB with the highlight being a trip east to Hastings where we found SO many Bass. We camped out for two nights fishing the tides and light changes during the weekend. As with most trips there is always something to remember... this time it was be woken up at around 12am on our first night by Border Force! Bright torches in our faces! They were alarmed seeing a lone boat on the beach, little did they know there were two stupid fishermen asleep in it. A 3:30am alarm started the day and gave us time for a coffee and a mental prep for the day. It was a hard slog to the zone with a big swell however we knew we would be sheltered, the particular mark we planned to fish was way to coloured which was a set back but however whilst we where cooking breakfast on a secluded beach we saw the birds working. The chase was on... for the next few hours we spent zipping up and down the bay catching more Bass than we could shake a stick at, I would not be lying if I said 'one a chuck' in some shoals.



The Bass fishing was incredible

Making our way back for a late lunch before the evening high we came across two lads waving at us 250m off the beach, they appeared in slight distress. We pulled up aside them, to find them just about standing on a sand bank whilst attempting to swim out to their boat, this had slipped anchor whilst they where on the beach! The boat was 100m away and was defiantly not getting any closer! They jumped on our boat covered in cuts and we took them out to their boat, thankfully they were all okay. The Coast Guard did come out after us to check on them and us.

The last morning and tide is when we found the bigger Bass on a lone mark away from the big shoals, a big ledge which we could work the lures over on a nice drift.

My first ever Tope trip happened this month as well. I was fortunate enough to get invited out on a friend's boat, Smart Fish. We were fishing in a friendly competition 'The One Mackerel Challenge' with the rules being one Mackerel per rod as bait and max. 4 rods per boat. Our tactic was to go big or go home, we had a large thresher under the boat all day in the chum but it didn't want to play.



One of three squid off the beach





A surprise Codling

I managed a few Tope bites but only landing one, such incredible fish with so much power.

I hit the super moon or blue moon on the shingle, with big tides we jumped the gun slightly fishing the tide up. The bites didn't start to materialise until slack water where a nice bag made for a good evening's fishing including a codling.

Squid!! One of the most get up and go moments on my angling calendar, when they turn up everything gets dropped and we are full steam ahead to try and catch these inky plastic bags! I have no clue why I get so excited over them considering they do not fight much but boy do they taste good! Maybe its the fact that its such a small window in the year ,especially with our climate and weather changing like it does, they are fascinating, a shore caught squid for me is a highlight, 3 caught Wednesday night.

# BODLE angling

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Sat: 8.00am to 12.30pm

Sunday: Closed Bank Holiday: Closed



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for the latest news and competitions!**



**Dan Vanshee**  
Thornback Ray  
Eastbourne



**Pete Burchett**  
Thornback Ray  
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Alex Watson - PB 38lbs Mirror Carp, Coking Farm

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Mobile:

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Karen Pattison - Common Carp, Sandwich Lakes



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# PINIONS



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# TROUT INFORMER

## Brick Farm Lakes

Herstmonceux, East Sussex



Following a difficult Summer, we are thrilled that the water temperatures are finally heading down and its clear that the fish are responding well. **Danny Kneller** had a nice 4 fish bag last week – the biggest of which was a healthy 3lbs 8ozs. Also **Jeff Bray** visited us whilst staying in the area for 2 days – as at writing he is on day 2, having caught 2 fish yesterday and is so far half way through his 2 fish ticket for today – well done Jeff!

Phil's diary has been jam-packed with either estate maintenance (on visiting, I'm sure you'll agree it's looking fantastic everywhere) and also plenty of coaching sessions. We always love to see people giving fly fishing a go and everyone who tries it is always thrilled when they hook into their first trout. A 2hr lesson with Phil, including equipment hire and a 1fish ticket is as little as £60 for one person and only £90 for 2 people – 2hrs is enough to learn all the casting techniques needed for a full day of fly fishing.

Autumn is a particularly good time to give it a go as the water temperatures are falling and the fish are hungry and fighting well.

## Tenterden Trout Waters

Tenterden, Kent



Autumn has arrived and after the hot September we are all pleased at our Fishery to see the weather and water temperatures fall so that some good trout fishing can finally get started. The challenge is on at Tenterden with fully stocked lakes consisting of Rainbows, Browns and Blues from 3lbs -12lbs. The Trout will put up a good fight for you. We have done some lake maintenance too whilst we have been closed this Summer which all adds to a good fishing experience with us and water levels are high. The Fishery Lodge is available for you to enjoy a tea/coffee with our compliments. We have great facilities with kitchen/dining/sofa, toilet and

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**Gaynor, Richard & Audrey**



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# Lure Fishing

*Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman*

## Take a friend fishing

*Fishing with friends is something I enjoy immensely, especially when you've not fished together in a long time. I introduced Rikki Cooper to lure fishing many years ago, he became so successful that for a few years he earned his living as a professional angling guide, eventually representing England in lure fishing competitions.*

**Having got a proper job again, Rikki's angling had rather taken a back seat. We had talked on and off about going fly fishing, but somehow life just kept getting in the way. At his wedding reception we hatched a plan, yes really! And that's how one Sunday afternoon we arrived at Orchard Farm Lakes, Paddock Wood [TN12 6NY]. Rikki knows these lakes very well as he's fished there extensively for catfish, but on this occasion he was going to fly fish for carp!**

To my surprise we found our chosen lake almost empty! I immediately started feeding floaters, before tackling up. With so little time to fish I needed to get carp feeding quickly off the surface and draw them into our swim. It took an hour of trickle feeding floaters, before we had some carp competing for our baits. Now for the moment of truth. I could see Rikki was both excited and terrified! A few tentative casts and it was time for ACTION! Several large carp were circulating within a small area picking off floaters, as they drifted in and out of the danger zone. By now Rikki was a nervous wreck, because these carp weren't small! Several fish attempted to take his fly and each time it resulted in an 'air strike'. Now his nerves were forgotten as he wanted desperately to hook his first carp on the fly! Then it happened, a very large carp took his fly. It was barely a rod length out when it took, once hooked it headed for the horizon stripping all of the fly line and 30-40 yards of backing an epic dash for freedom! The sheer horror and panic on Rikki's face was a picture to behold. Using such unfamiliar tackle took some getting used to. I tightened the reel's drag and explained how to apply side strain, in an effort to knock the fish off balance. After its initial 70 yard run Rikki was now in control. I readied the net, just 30 feet to go, when disaster struck as the barbless hook fell out, no!

It didn't take long to attract the fish back into the swim, but they were feeding far more cautiously now. Several more 'air strikes' later and Rikki finally connects with another carp. It fought very hard but from the outset we both knew it was a much smaller fish. Size doesn't always matter, this was a very important fish being his first on the fly. Firsts are always important milestones, but 'the one that got away' will last much longer in his memory I'm sure. The evening drew to a close far too soon but surely that's the measure of a successful fishing session?

### **Next, fishing with another friend**

What a contrast my next fishing with a friend was, this time I was meeting up with long term fishing friend Ed Wade. Ed had wanted to learn about fly fishing methods and techniques for pike, so I'd guided him on Bewl Water. Ed was preparing for trips to monster pike waters, Chew and Blagdon reservoirs. That was back in the spring, and during our day together I mentioned, several times how much fun carp fly fishing could be. Finally Ed found some time and I travelled west to Guildford and met up with him at Willinghurst fishery [GU5 0SQ]. Willinghurst is somewhere I'd wanted to fish for some time, so I was excited at the prospect of fishing there. On arrival I couldn't wait to have a quick look around. The first water I saw was the 'Top Lake' where I found several carp milling around on the surface. I flicked a few floaters out and they immediately started circling them, but strangely not taking any? Before we could start fishing the bailiff turned up and informed us that 'John's Match Lake' and 'Top Lake' were both closed off for matches, Doh!

No matter, with eleven lakes available we still had plenty of waters to fish, so no drama's. We strolled around a couple of lakes flicking out the odd floater, not really expecting to see much this early in the morning. To my surprise fish started showing an interest almost immediately on 'Horseshoe Lake'. That was all the encouragement we needed, so we both walked, very quickly back to our cars to fetch the gear! I chose 'Horseshoe Lake' for two reasons, firstly it provided unrestricted casting room, and secondly it appeared to have some rather large fish in it too. As we feed the carp became more active and started drifting between our two swims. Several times fish spooked off our freebies, which was rather concerning, as we hadn't started fishing yet! This was repeated time and time again during the course of the day. I took this to be a sign that these fish had been heavily fished for on the surface. One thing that did surprise me was, at Willinghurst you are not allowed to fish off the surface, unless you are fly fishing! How unusual is that!

I'd given Ed a few carp flies and a couple of ESP's new 'Artificial Surface Mixers' to start with. Being a serious carper he felt more at home using



Rikki Cooper's first carp on the fly!



the 'Artificial Surface Mixers'. The carp although drawn into our swims by free food were still very tentative as they approached our flies. Ed persisted using the 'Artificial Surface Mixers', even though in his words, he was being 'mugged off' by the wary carp. I stayed on flies but was suffering exactly the same problems. Fish after fish approached my fly before either taking a 'side swipe' at them in alarm, or panicking when they got within a few inches of them. I slowly worked my way through my fly box trying to find an acceptable pattern, gauging their reaction to each new fly I tried.

Ed was happy to watch me frantically scabble through my tackle bucket, as I muttered to myself about how 'effing' difficult these fish were proving to be! To my surprise, and relief Ed hooked a carp on the 'Artificial Mixer'. He then found out how exhilarating a fight from a quiet modest carp can be on fly gear. I finally managed a fish on the 'X-rig', but wasn't surprised to see it was foul hooked in the pectoral fin. A sign the fish had aborted taking my fly just as I struck. Another frustrating hour followed, with no sign the carp were becoming more confident.



*Ed Wade's first carp on the fly!*

My next change was to tie a new leader, this time eight feet long rather than my usual five or six footer, with a size 12 foam backed black beetle. I degreased the final twelve inches of leader in an effort to hide it in the surface film, before it was sitting high on the surface. I now tried a more stealthy approach, I pinged a few 11mm pellets out and waited. I was sure the noise they made hitting the surface was attracting the carp, as they always appeared shortly after each new introduction. As soon as they reappeared, I scattered a mixture of 6mm and 8mm mini floating pellets to hold them in my swim. I now started casting directly at any cruising carp that was within my casting range. If I didn't get an offer, I'd lift off immediately and try casting at it again. I repeated this as often as I could, until the fish either left the swim, or I caught it. This tactic worked a treat, after struggling to catch a carp for five hours, I'd now caught three fish in a few minutes! I was eager to share this information with Ed. He came around and I talked him through the process, while I continued fishing. Suddenly on cue a carp obliging took my fly! Having 'cracked the method' for the day I was keen to return to 'Horseshoe Lake'. Having rested the water for several hours I was keen to see if my new found technique would work there too? I left my gear with Ed and encouraged him to use it. I'd hardly walked twenty yards before I heard the shout, "fish on". This instant success proved we'd cracked it!

When I eventually reached 'Horseshoe Lake', to my surprise I found it deserted. I picked a swim that offered us the best casting options, and also covered a lot of water. I fed a few 11mm pellets into two adjacent swims. Within minutes I saw encouraging swirls, just down wind of where I'd introduced the floaters. I hastily returned to Ed and told him it was time to move. On our arrival back at 'Horseshoe', we found the two swims I'd primed, occupied by two other fly anglers! We couldn't fit in anywhere near the baited area, so we chose two swims on the downwind bank. It didn't take long to attract a few hungry carp, but yet again they were very cautious. Fish would swim in and out of the baited areas frequently, but were very unsettled. The glare from the sinking sun made spotting fish difficult, so casting at cruising fish wasn't an option. All we could do was 'heave it and leave it', and hope a carp would find our flies. I knew this wasn't going to end well and was frustrated. I knew our chances of success were very slim. Fortunately Ed was unaware of my misgivings, and as my hopes sunk Ed hooked the biggest fish of the day, a mid-double common. And so ended a hard, but enthralling day at Willinghurst.

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



*Ed Wade goes toe to toe with his first carp*

It was time to move on. As we walked past 'New Lake' Ed spotted several fish on the surface and suggested we stop there for a while, I agreed and slotted in on the next peg.

Over the next hour we both experienced the same scenario repeat itself over, and over again. The fish would swim into the baited area, take a pellet then drift out again. When they returned they would swim erratically, often changing direction unpredictably before selecting another pellet or two. This random behaviour made it very difficult to know where to cast your fly. It was hard to resist casting in their general direction, a tactic that rarely works. I tried overcasting the baited area, then gradually inching my fly, hopefully back into the path of one of these cruisers. With each failure I changed my fly, generally going smaller, until it was a struggle to see them! I tried adding a sight indicator to my leader and extending its length. This is a successful tactic Keith Nicholson had shown me recently when we fished at Elphicks together. The maddening thing was now the carp were taking my bright coloured indicator, and totally ignoring my mini pellet fly! So I frantically tied on a big, brash orange Tango fly. This got totally ignored too, despite the indicator still attracting their attention, doh!



## 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'

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

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

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





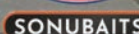
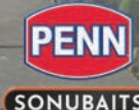
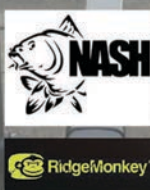


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Angling & FP Society**

**BARDEN LAKE UPDATE** CEFAS have now lifted the Designation following the recent KHV outbreak. The lake will continue to stay closed for fishing until November 1st.

**The Old Ballast Pit** The lilies are now dying back and are due to be sprayed to help reduce the numbers for next year. Fishing has been good though with plenty of good sized Carp to 30lbs being reported. Good sized Tench and Bream also being caught. Silverfish numbers have improved over the last couple of seasons and pleasure anglers have had individual fish to over 1lb.

**The New Lagoon** Although water levels are low, this has not effected the quality of fishing. Tench to over 5lbs, odd Carp to 9lbs, Bream to over 5lbs and Roach and Rudd to 12ozs+ bring reported.

**Longfield and Haysden Lake** Usual mixed bags with Bream and Tench being caught with the odd decent Perch to 1lb+ being caught from the platforms.

**The river** has been tough going in the matches but some good individual pleasure sessions have been reported. The forecast rain can't come quick enough to help freshen things up a bit.

**Pippins Farm** A few Perch to 1lb 8ozs showing on maggot as well as the odd Tench and Carp to around 3lbs. One or two Crucians to 12ozs have been reported too.



**MATCH RESULTS**

**KENT CHAMPIONSHIPS - BODIUM**

Tonbridge had another great win this year with 3 section wins and 3 section 2nd placings. Individually, Tonbridge club match regular John Cooper took the honours with an impressive winning weight of 20lbs 1oz. Second place overall went to another one-off our regulars, Ditch Howard with 14lbs 4ozs. Third spot went to Edenbridge's John Gore with 8lbs 4ozs and fourth spot went to P Blake of Maidstone Victory with 8lbs. Well done also to section winners, Steve Parker, Richard Briggs and Steve Edwards.

**AUBREY & TIBBETS**

**BUNGALOWS – 16 fished**

1st	Mick Orum	9lbs 8ozs
2nd	Ditch Howard	6lbs 7ozs
3rd	Pat Galpin	6lbs

**TIBBETS**

1st	Lisa Bedford	1lb 8ozs
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14 year old Mason Envis might have bitten off more than he could chew when he paid a visit to Pittlands Lakes with Dad, Adam, and younger brother Kian. Setting out his stall to catch a catfish, Mason bait a size 4/0 hook with of luncheon meat before casting out. He didn't have long to wait before his hookbait was picked up by an incredibly powerful fish and after a dramatic 15min fight he was able to land this huge, and new **PB**, 64lbs 8ozs Catfish. A worthy winner of this months Sussex Bait Developments Bait package.

## Monster moggy for Mason



## Magnificent Mollie

Despite her tender years, 11 year old Mollie Gunn has faced a lifetimes worth of challenges. During this time, however, fishing has given her an opportunity to relax and set her own challenges, whether that be trying to catch a new Personal Best or just spending time on the bank. Her latest quest was to land a catfish. A feat that she achieved admirably at Pittlands Lakes with this pretty 10lber. Chosen as the winner of a signed copy of Carl and Omi's book 'The Simple Fishing Guide' we fully expect her to take her parents on many more adventures.



Keir Johnson - what a stunning fish!



Tommy Goodman 11yrs - 59lbs Mirror Carp, France

**HENFOLD BAIT & TACKLE** Henfold Lakes, Henfold Lane, Newdigate RH5 4RW  
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Albie Ryan - 1st Catfish



Dexter Steyn 7yrs - Common Carp, River Ebro



Aspey 7yrs - 26lbs 6ozs Common Carp, Tricklebrook



Fraser Loydall - Common Carp, Orchard Place Farm



Eprihaim Peirce 8yrs - PB 4lbs 4ozs Tench



Harry Devell Jnr - 9lbs 3ozs Barbel, River Trent



Elsie Beaven - 7lbs CommonCarp, Elphicks



Riley Blackford - 7lbs Mirror Carp, Monk Lakes



Leo Murphy 12yrs - 12lbs Catfish, Orchard Place Farm



Brayden Parsons 12 - 18lbs Common Carp, Hawkhurst



Oliver Moxley 12yrs - PB 21lbs 4ozs Common Carp



Sydney Smith 10yrs - 17lbs 4ozs Mirror, Club Water



Mercy Devell  
14lbs 10ozs  
Barbel  
River Trent



Robyn Diamond - PB 13lbs 8ozs Common Carp, Hawkhurst



Joshua Carey, 6yrs - 5lbs Eel, RKB Fisheries



Jack Petch 10yrs - PB 11lbs 2ozs Common Carp, Club



Charlie 4yrs - 7lbs 8ozs Common Carp, Chart Fishery

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# October update

by instructor Warren White



Going back to November 2022, I was contacted by Catrin Robinson, who is the lady from Fishing for schools head Office that makes thing tick, and a lovely lady at that. She had been contacted by a Charity from Kent called Involve. Basically they were inquiring to Fishing for schools to see if we would do some Fishing lessons with a lad one to one. Catrin informed the Charity that we don't offer 1-2-1 tuition as the Fishing for Schools programme is offered to groups opposed to one to one, but passed on my details to the charity as Catrin knew I lived in Kent and might be able to advise.

To be honest, because of my busy school and Mental health and disability work I very rarely do one to one fishing coaching. There is the odd Club Junior Open day I have coached at and the rare one to one with an ex fishing for schools lad who wanted to progress after the F4S course had ended, but apart from that, I normally guide young people to angling events that go on in each year that are free, mainly because I do not like to charge.

After having a chat with Involve the charity, I found out the lad, Andrew, who wanted the lessons, was a keen fisherman who wanted to learn more about fishing. I also knew that Andrew had a disability and would possibly be a wheel chair user. I was also told by the charity that they had some funds for his lessons, which would fund 5 sessions for Andrew.

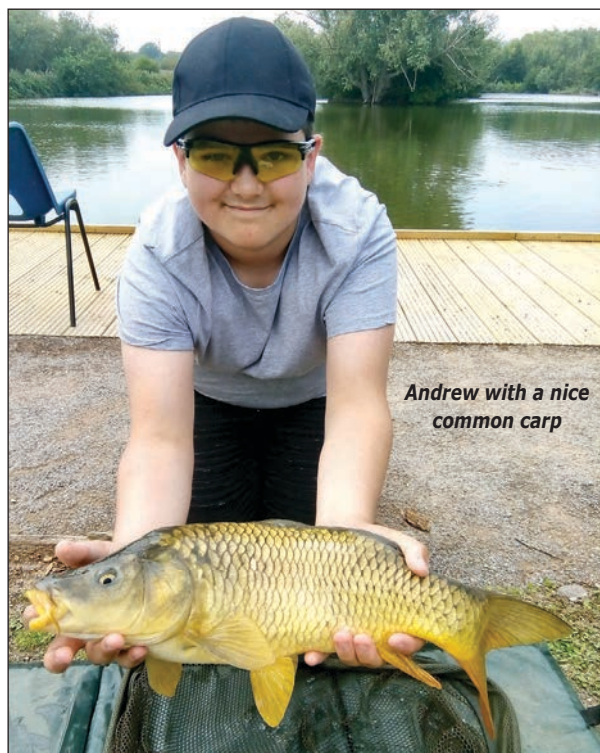
Although I knew I was going to be really busy with all my other coaching work, as soon as I hear there is a young person who is keen and wants guidance I am hooked, so agreed to coach this lad.

Next I spoke to the lad's dad, Malcolm, to learn more about Andrew and when we would start his course. We were now into the winter of 2022/23, not a good time to start a fishing course and I advised a good time to start would be no sooner than May. We actually started at the end of May at Shorne Country park, always a good place to start a fishing course as it has such a variety of fish and normally fishes well. Also on the course we would be doing the Angling Trust, Cast Level one award, which involves learning a few basic H&S issues for the angler and the fish, the countryside code and some basic skills of fishing including plumbing, casting and handling fish using a disgorger. At the end of the course, if you pass, you get a certificate for your level of competence. A really good course and the students pride themselves in achieving a certificate.

So for our first session I picked a swim on the Steps lake that is a designated swim for disabled anglers. I had never met Andrew before, as it was his first lesson, but knew he had a disability, so covered all bases with this chosen swim. When Andrew arrived at the fishery, I had a call from Malcolm his dad to ask where we were at the park as it was their first time there. Because I thought Andrew might be using his wheelchair I had spoken to Phil, the club bailiff, and he kindly said that Malcolm could bring his car down nearer the lakes so making Andrews walk easier, but Malcolm informed me that Andrew was now on his crutches and making his way down to meet me.

On meeting Andrew and his dad, I knew straight away that Andrew was keen on fishing and was strong willed. Andrew explained that he had had an accident while horse riding and had broken his spine, but I could see, this wasn't going to stop Andrew from doing anything.

Andrew sat on my trusty old ASI box, something from a past year, a heavy box but super rigid and just the job. The crutches were pushed aside and off we went with the lesson. My aim with all young anglers is to give them guidance on the basics of fishing using a float, plumbing up, casting, playing and handling fish and using a disgorger. Although Andrew had been fishing before and used a rod and reel, I normally start the learning process with a Whip as no reel is involved. Reels, for most young people, can mean tangles and the Whip



Andrew with a nice common carp

was also the choice of fishing equipment as the venue is full of silver fish, so definitely the best method. We went through all the basics, plumbing, casting a Whip and I showed Andrew how to feed maggots little and often. He was soon into some nice roach and rudd, his handling was good and he did well with disgorging. Because Andrew had used a rod and reel before, and I knew the swim had a history of catching a Carp, we also put out a feeder rod using a little hybrid method feeder. It was a short under armed cast to the reeds on the right of the swim and the idea was to fish the bait conventionally inside the baited feeder so it wouldn't get caught in the reeds when casting. We went on to catch some fine Carp in the short session.

Something of interest I had found out about this swim. When I first joined the club 15 years ago, if you cast your feeder too far across the lake, and when I say lake it is more like a large pond, once it hits the bottom, there is a horrendous snag and once you're caught on it, there was no way out. I found this out to my cost when I first fished the swim, shortly after I had joined the club. After talking to a fellow coach, who was long term member of the club, I found out what the problem was. There is a reed bed that runs down the middle of the lake, these reeds hide a secret – a sunken conveyor belt from when it was a working quarry, this had become a major snag for fisherman over the years. Tip to remember, 'older members at a club can be a hive of information'.

The next part of the course, session two, was to take Andrew to a venue that contained bigger fish and that venue was Grove Farm, Hadlow college, which is a wonderful fishery. This is a venue that I use a lot with both schools and Mental health and disability groups and is owned by Hadlow college. This is a training centre and not normally open to the general public.



The next session was at the end of June. When doing a one to one session in the busiest time for me, I like to fit the short session in after I have already been working with another group earlier in the day. This session was going to be about carp fishing on the Pole, a new method for Andrew to get his head around. Because the weather was warm and the fish were in the upper layers of water we decided to fish on top. The pole is a great way of surface fishing because you get into places that you would not be able to do with a rod and reel and because the fish feed well in the margins. My only difference to how most people do it, is I like to freeline my hook bait, as I find that floats can sometimes frighten fish and you don't need a float as you can see visually when your hook bait is taken. But I would just say to check your fishery rules when fishing, because I know in the case of match fishing, that for most fisheries, you must use a float when pole fishing.

Like all fishing the main thing is how you feed, ideally you want the fish to be competing with each before you go in. I like to hair rig a cheap dog biscuit, which is my go to bait, but on occasions we have caught on pop ups and wafers. For this method of fishing because the Carp are being fed into the margins in most cases you only need your top three sections of your pole and you are away. The only time you might need more sections on your pole is when the fish is hooked and could run out into the lake, but in most cases you only need three sections of your pole. I gave Andrew a quick demo of hooking a dog biscuit using a quick stop, then he was away, he picked up the method quickly and in no time was hooking and playing some nice Carp. A lovely venue to be fishing, lots learnt, and an enjoyable session.

The next session, our third, was back to Shorne country park, once again I had been coaching another group earlier in the day, I arranged to meet Andrew and his dad at 2.30pm once my other group had left. The only difference was, we were now fishing the other lake at the country park, The long lake, which was good as it would give Andrew another experience. On this occasion once again the Whip would of been the best method, being that there was a lot of silver fish in front of us, but for this session I wanted to show Andrew how to fish the Waggler for silver fish, a skill often forgotten these days. The weather was a little windy, not ideal for waggler fishing and a side wind at that. But the main thing was to show Andrew the basics of casting, putting your rod tip under the water, flicking your rod upwards that helps to sink your line and stop your float moving out of position. Another enjoyable session with plenty of silver fish caught.

For the 4th and 5th ( the last ) sessions of the course, I always had in the back of my mind that I wanted Andrew to experience a couple of sessions with two other coaches, because I wanted Andrew to experience different skills of Freshwater fishing and not just coarse fishing. Also it fitted in well because I had a minor health issue that I wouldn't be able to drive for a few weeks. For the 4th session I planned for him to have a Fly fishing lesson with a fellow Fishing for schools coach Bob Goble who is also the head Fly Instructor at Bewl Water, but what Bob was going to show Andrew was how to Fly fish for Carp off the top, feeding dog biscuits and using a deer hair imitation dog biscuit. In recent years the method for Fly fishing for Carp off the Top, has become a popular and exciting method.

The feedback from Bob after the session, was that Andrew had a great session at Grove Farm, Hadlow and must have landed six carp. He had some screaming runs and lost a few as also, a lot of interest to the artificial biscuits. It sounded great. Andrew must of had a good session with Bob, as I was contacted by Andrew's father after the session asking for Bob's contact details as he wanted to book a session with Bob at Bewl Water for Andrew to fish for Trout.

On the last session I asked fellow coach David Evans to do the session with Andrew, he, like me is a Coarse fishing coach, but it would be good for Andrew to try a session with a different coarse fishing coach, for more experience.

At the start of the course you try to cram in as many methods so to give your student an all round taste of fishing.

Throughout the course we had looked at the Whip, feeder, Pole ( surface fishing ) and the waggler, so for the last session I spoke to David Evans and advised him on showing Andrew how to catch on the Pole on the bottom and I was asked by Andrew's dad Malcolm if we could run over the method feeder.

From the feedback I have had from coach David Evans and Andrew after the session at Grove Farm, Hadlow, it seemed to of gone really well. There was some good Carp caught on Method feeder and Pole. On the method our go to bait is a robin red pellet that the carp seem to love, with micro pellet or method ground-bait around the feeder. Although the conventional way is to put the bait inside the baited feeder, I have found at times, where the fish have wised up to this, to fish the bait running free and to make a little paste, out of the



Andrew receiving  
his Cast Award



...and a mirror

same ground-bait or pellet mix being used around the feeder and mold this paste around the hook-bait, be it pellet or boilie. I call this hook bait, a conker, as the bait has a soft paste outer skin around a hard inner pellet or boilie. . It was good also to show Andrew how to pole fish on the bottom where he caught well on corn. A couple of good tips for him here, is to accurately plumb up and as our sessions with Andrew are normally later in the day, a good spot to fish is in the margins as the fish tend to feed closer in later in the day as they get used to anglers throwing their bait in, before going home. Now with the course finished, all there was left to do was for David to present Andrew with his level one, cast certificate.

Andrew has been a good lad on the course and an Inspiration for any young angler wanting to get into fishing. Andrews father Malcolm has been a rock throughout the course and it is good to see that he himself has got the bug for fishing, so father and son will be able to go fishing together in the future. After the course had finished. I recieved some positive feedback from Andrews dad, Malcolm about how well the course had gone, which is always nice.

**A thanks to Bob Goble and David Evans for giving Andrew an all round fishing experience.**



**More than he bargained for!**

**Mark Day** got more than he bargained for when trying out an antique fishing rod.

Fishing at Sandwich Lakes, the 4ft fibreglass rod, which Mark paid just £3 for, was well and truly put through its paces when this superb albino grass carp of 15lb 4oz took his bait. After a hectic 20 minute battle, which Mark described as the most memorable of his fishing career, he was finally able to bank the distinctive fish.



## Letter to the editor



Just a quick catch up on my season so far at Claygate Lakes. On my latest session I had no luck so changed to plan B. I introduced some floating bread and after about thirty minutes they started to feed. I went on to land a number of carp between 5 and 7lbs. My season total is now up to 569lbs with a good chance of breaking last year's total of 620lbs. Many Thanks, Robin Piper

**Editors note:** Great fishing Robin, with a fair wind you might even break the 1000lbs barrier before the end of the season

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**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!

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# Medway Man

## Bob Morris

**T**he hot September weather was a real surprise to most of us and I can't really seem to assess what effect it has had (if any) on my fishing and results. On the one hand river conditions quickly deteriorated with relatively low flows and potentially poor oxygen levels which persuaded me to cancel several trips but the short evening sessions that I did undertake were very productive and active with several good fish being taken. Angling is often very unpredictable, and this is, I believe, one of the attractive qualities of it.

On the tench front, one of the waters that I had been doing well on has gone very quiet and I have even experienced a blank afternoon there recently – the first this season. On another lake the opposite has happened, and I have had more consistency with six and eight fish catches in an evening becoming common with the odd carp thrown in for good measure. A session in the company of my granddaughter Clara was particularly enjoyable with several tench and a carp being landed which helped to keep her interested. I recently had another interesting day out with her on the family front. We were taking advantage of the weather and spending a day on the beach. When we arrived, it was just after high tide and to my amazement thousands of sprats had been washed up dead on the waterline. As these were extremely fresh, I took the opportunity to collect a couple of pounds of these to stock my freezer for the coming pike season. Unfortunately, I no longer have my chest freezer in the garage and so a lack of space prevented me from filling a bin bag full. Various theories about where they had come from sprang to mind after dismissing the idea that some form of pollution was responsible. Had this been the case, then other species would have been evident as well. The fact that the gulls were ignoring this food bonanza was also a puzzle until I realized that they were probably just totally stuffed full of them, and careful observation soon revealed that the sea beyond a couple of hundred yards or so was receiving a lot of attention from diving gulls and other birds, it was alive with sprats. A guy who returned in a canoe with a rod set up with a spinner and feathers no doubt aimed at Mackerel and Bass had totally blanked and blamed the vast sprat shoal. I also considered the possibility that this event might have been the result of a trawler discharging an unwanted catch a bit earlier before high tide but, in the end, I concluded that just the sheer size of the shoal combined with the pursuit by predators was probably responsible. I would be interesting to hear from anyone who has experienced this phenomenon recently – or under any circumstances.

Talking of Sprats, they are one of my 'go to' pike baits, because the normal size of 3-4" makes them ideal for use with my single barbless/hair rig method of piking these days and I am just about to start planning a few trips. Sprats are also ideal for bumping along with a light weight such as a

swan shot to create a nice sexy action and I often find that doing this on the slower sections of river in conjunction with my barbel rod is very effective. I frequently just pause for a few minutes to allow the sprat to settle on the bottom and often this is when a take will occur. This will initially be confined to the rivers, particularly as some of the stretches that I am currently trying have reasonable stocks of pike and I am looking forward to exploring their potential. It will be good to get back to 'Pike school' as I like to call it as there is always so much new to learn.

My current approach to the Medway has largely been targeting chub during afternoon/evening sessions and I am pleased with the consistent amount of action and the reasonable average size of the fish. I will now start to arrive a bit earlier to give time for a few hours dedicated piking before changing to the feeders or pre-baited spots at dusk. I have yet to don my barbel hat but with some sensible amount of rain, which I believe is now forecast for next week, I am also starting to make a few plans to incorporate a 'whisker or two into my piscatorial activities. I am sure that this will be an interesting quest for this autumn and may also bring a few problems to be solved, particularly on the stretches of river that I have not fished much before. So much to do and 'probably' so little time.

*Best Fishes & Opportunities - Bob Morris*



*Making memories with Granddaughter Clara*



*Bob with a superb Chub*



The **Voluntary Bailiff Service (VBS)** is an opportunity for anglers and members of the public who care about our lakes rivers and canals to help protect fish stocks from poaching and theft, and to encourage rod licence compliance and report pollution. By being the 'eyes and ears' of the fishing community on the riverbank or lakeside they can report on their time on the bank to a dedicated and secure website and report incidents and issues. Those reports are then made available to both the EA and Police to enable those agencies to prioritise their resources. All you need to do is go fishing or walk the banks on a club bailiff patrol or dog walk and report what you see on the website. There are no requirements on the time you spend out and about, just use the website for your reports when you have been out. We are seeking enthusiastic people in the Kent, Surrey, and Sussex region to join the VBS and to work closely with the Fishery Enforcement Support Service (FESS) in the Angling Trust and the EA and Police. If you are interested, please have a look at the link below to the Angling Trust website about the work of the FESS and how you could help. <https://anglingtrust.net/enforcement/>

The application for the VBS is here: <https://anglingtrust.net/enforcement/#vbs>

## REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING



**101 For Non-Emergencies**

**999 If a crime is taking place**

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Perhaps as an angler you may want to understand fisheries legislation a little bit better or as a club provide training for your bailiffs? Well why not attend one of the online Fishery Workshops run by the Fisheries Enforcement Service in the Autumn each year? The details of the next round of these sessions will be released soon.

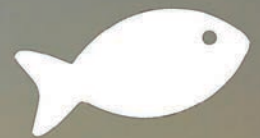
If you see a potential angling related issue please call the EA for all pollution, rod licensing and trapping issues on **0800 80 70 60**, or if you witness poaching or fish theft contact the **Police** on **101** or if the incident is happening in front of you or you fear for your safety on **999**. Always record the incident number that the EA or Police assign to the incident. Please contact the **SE Regional Enforcement Support Manager, Dave Wilkins** for more information [david.wilkins@anglingtrust.com](mailto:david.wilkins@anglingtrust.com)

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<b>Chart Hill Lakes</b> Chart Hill Road, Chart Sutton ME17 3EZ	<b>07398 571337</b>
<b>Chequertree Trout and Coarse Fishery</b> Bethersden, Near Ashford TN26 3JR	<b>01233 820078</b>
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<b>Elphicks Fisheries</b> Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden TN12 8EL	<b>01580 212512</b>
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<b>Greenacres Farm Fishery</b> Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden TN27 8EH	<b>07933 934942</b>
<b>Hawkhurst Fish Farm</b> Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	<b>01580 753813</b>
<b>Horam Manor Fishery</b> Horam Manor Farm, Horam TN21 0JB	<b>01323 840889 / 07707 759364</b>
<b>Horsmonden Lakes</b> Grovehurst Road, Horsmonden TN12 8BQ	<b>01892 838576</b>
<b>Iden Wood Fishery</b> Coldharbour Lane, Iden, Rye TN31 7UT	<b>01797 280180 / 07906 232225</b>
<b>Knightingales Fishery</b> Stone-In-Oxney, Near Tenterden TN30 7HA	<b>07941 176205</b>
<b>Mousehole Lakes</b> Maidstone Road Nettlestead, Near Paddock Wood ME18 5HR	<b>07725 783405</b>
<b>Orchard Place Farm Fishery</b> Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood TN12 6NY	<b>01892 838576</b>
<b>Pittlands Lakes</b> Churn Lane, Horsmonden, Paddock Wood TN12 8HL	<b>07716 065900</b>
<b>Sandwich Lakes Coarse Fishery</b> Sandwich Ash Road (A257), Near Canterbury CT3 2DA	<b>07936 409912</b>
<b>Shirkoak Fishery</b> Bethersden Road, Woodchurch, Ashford TN26 3PZ	<b>07973 410973</b>
<b>The Lakes at Beachborough</b> Beachborough Park Newington, Near Folkestone CT18 8BW	<b>07469 809877</b>
<b>Tricklebrook Fishery</b> Colts Hill, Five Oak Green TN12 6SH	<b>07743 955812</b>
<b>Willows Angling Centre</b> Bax Farm, Lower Road, Teynham ME9 9BU	<b>01795 520887</b>
<b>Wylands Farm</b> Wylands Farm, Powdermill Lane, Battle TN33 0SU	<b>01424 893394</b>

Trout Fisheries

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

Tackle & Bait Supplies

<b>Absolute Tackle</b> 12 Wealden Forest Park Herne Common, Kent CT6 7LQ	<b>01227 636724 / 07809 330854</b>
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<b>Anglers Den</b> 6 North Road, Pevensey Bay BN24 6AY	<b>01323 460441</b>
<b>Angling Specialist (ASH)</b> 29 Queen Street, Horsham RH13 5AA	<b>01403 264644</b>
<b>A.R. Tackle</b> 8 Castle Street, Hastings TN34 3DY	<b>01424 422094</b>
<b>Bait Bucket Tackle Warehouse</b> Unit T Rich Industrial Estate, Avis Way, Newhaven BN9 0DU	<b>01273 933050</b>
<b>Best Buddies</b> 28 Martello Drive, Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6PH	<b>01303 487144</b>
<b>Bodle Angling</b> Cuckfield Road, Burgess Hill RH15 8RE	<b>01444 247757</b>
<b>Camos Carp Cabin</b> 11 Turner Street, Ramsgate CT11 8NJ	<b>01843 581784</b>
<b>Chris Brown Products</b> email: <a href="mailto:chrifoaks@gmail.com">chrifoaks@gmail.com</a>	<b>01892 723670</b> <a href="http://www.cbproducts.co.uk">www.cbproducts.co.uk</a>
<b>Dens Tackle</b> 73 Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6JN	<b>01303 267053</b>
<b>Eastbourne Aquarium &amp; Reptile Centre</b> 19-21 Seaside, Eastbourne BN21 3PP	<b>01323 730635</b>
<b>Gabriels Fishery Tackle Shop</b> Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP	<b>07730 066088</b>
<b>Henfold Bait &amp; Tackle Henfold Lakes</b> Henfold Lane, Newdigate, Dorking RH5 4RW	<b>07956 043922</b>
<b>Jack Frost</b> Reynolds Place, West Green, Crawley RH11 7HB	<b>01293 521186</b>
<b>Kent Angling Centre</b> 44, Seal Road, Sevenoaks TN14 5AR	<b>01732 905088</b>
<b>Medway Tackle Supplies</b> 11 Twydall Green, Gillingham ME8 6JY	<b>01634 475260</b>
<b>MFC Outdoor Store</b> 9 Station Road, Hailsham BN27 2BE	<b>01323 846883</b>
<b>NJ Tackle</b> 150 Milton Road, Gravesend DA12 2RG	<b>01474 353998</b>
<b>Orchard Tackle</b> 58 High Brooms Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9DB	<b>07494 670328</b>
<b>Pinions Baits</b> 431 London Road, Ditton, Aylesford ME20 6DB	<b>01622 718580</b>
<b>Polegate Angling Centre</b> Unit 7, Birch Industrial Estate, Eastbourne BN23 6PH	<b>01323 486379</b>
<b>Romney Angling</b> 59, High Street, New Romney TN28 8AH	<b>01797 362889</b>
<b>Sheppey Angling</b> , Unit 5, Regis Business Park New Road, Sheerness, Kent ME12 1HA	<b>01795 661089</b>
<b>South London Angling Centre</b> 286 Lee High Road, London SE13 5PJ	<b>0208 852 4451</b>
<b>Sussex Bait Developments</b> Falkenvil Fishery, Saltmarsh Lane, Hailsham BN27 2RJ	<b>07971 303949</b>
<b>The Tackle Box</b> 251 Watling Street, Dartford DA2 6EG	<b>01322 292400</b>
<b>Trade In Tackle</b> Maidstone Road Wateringbury ME18 5EH	<b>01622 814296 / 07941 085011</b>

Angling Clubs & Societies

<b>Bromley (Kent) &amp; District AS</b> PO Box 895, East Grinstead RH19 9ND Email: <a href="mailto:bdas-kent-enquiry@bdaskent.co.uk">bdas-kent-enquiry@bdaskent.co.uk</a>	
<b>Cinder Hill Fly Fishing</b> Membership available from email: <a href="mailto:r.nathan@btinternet.com">r.nathan@btinternet.com</a>	<b>01892 770903</b>
<b>Hastings Bexhill &amp; District</b> Postal enquiries to S.Corke, 2, The Sidings, Bexhill On Sea TN40 1RF Chris Pagan <b>07429 655237</b> / Steve Potter <b>07935 268174</b>	
<b>Linton Angling Society</b> Jason Tuckey on <b>07983 569220</b> or email <a href="mailto:lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk">lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk</a>	
<b>Tonbridge &amp; District A &amp; FPS</b> PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB	Martyn <b>07802 248861</b>
<b>Wantsum Angling Association</b> or contact via website <a href="http://www.wantsumaa.co.uk">www.wantsumaa.co.uk</a>	<b>01227 678063</b>





# Mousehole Lakes

NINE ACRES - THREE LAKES

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Kestrel Lake



Swift Lake



Swift 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

## 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



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