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DROUIN**  
**39lbs MIRROR**  
**COTTINGTON**  
**LAKES**

**FREE**



Sandwich  
Coarse Fishery

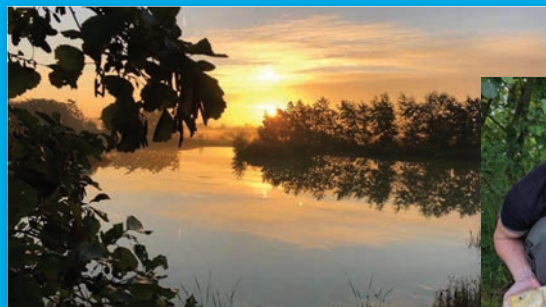


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email: [enquiries@sandwichlakes.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@sandwichlakes.co.uk)

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

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







## ORCHARD PLACE FARM FISHING

13 FISHING LAKES in the KENT COUNTRYSIDE

Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6NY

01892 838576 or 07860 608218



**Carp to 49lb+**



**Catfish to 112lb+**

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

### SPECIMEN LAKES

DAY TICKETS  
AVAILABLE  
24HR - £30  
48HR - £55  
(additional charge  
for 3rd rod)

### FULLY FUNCTIONING LAKE 13 - CARP & CATFISH WATER

Many swims have disabled access • All-weather pathways leading all around the lakes and up to each individual swim • Purpose-built toilets located in the main car park (with hot shower) • Between Lake 3 and Lake 4 (toilet and sink block only) • Block constructed by Lake 7 also contains a microwave, fridge and washing up facilities.

### MATCH/PLEASURE LAKES

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

**FOOD IS AVAILABLE ON SITE FROM MID-MARCH TO OCTOBER**

[www.orchardplacefarmfishing.co.uk](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



Hello and welcome to the September edition of the Freshwater Informer



It feels like very much a month of two halves this month. On the plus side it has been great to see so many events taking place over the school holidays to promote angling and help get youngsters into the sport. It is also really encouraging to see the amount of junior catch reports that we have received, which just goes to prove how valuable these schemes are.



As you will see in the following pages, we have also been inundated with catch reports from adult anglers, keen to share their latest successes. Whether that be their first fish, a new Personal Best, the culmination of a long fished campaign, or simply the memories of an enjoyable day on the bank. All are welcome, and we always do our best to fit them all in!



On the negative side of this month, there has been a confirmed outbreak of KHV in our area. As we go to press, it does appear to have been contained, but we urge all anglers to be extra vigilant, and immediately report any issues with fish health to a fishery bailiff or controlling club. Also please ensure that all mats, slings and nets are dried thoroughly between sessions, ideally in direct sunlight, and any disease prevention protocols (net dips, etc) in place at fisheries are rigorously followed before fishing. It takes very little time, and will help prevent the spread of this horrible disease.

So in conclusion, take care, be safe, and keep sending in your pictures to share with our great community.

*HAVE A GREAT MONTH, THE FWI TEAM.*

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DATES FOR  
YOUR DIARY

2024

OCTOBER publication  
CONTENT DEADLINE 16th September  
NOVEMBER publication  
CONTENT DEADLINE 21st October

DECEMBER publication  
CONTENT DEADLINE 18th November  
JANUARY 2025 publication  
CONTENT DEADLINE 16th December

The Freshwater Informer

email: thefreshwaterinformer@gmail.com

COPY DEADLINE for OCTOBER 2024  
MONDAY 16th September 2024 at 5pm

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Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

**Snipe Lake** has seen plenty of fish banked so far this month with Mirrors caught to 27lbs 4ozs, Commons caught to 26lbs 7ozs and both the Grass Carp have been banked, the Small Grassie went 17lbs 9ozs and the Big Grassie went 32lbs 12ozs. **Westlake** has again produced some cracking sessions and cats have been banked from 9lbs up to 65lbs with lots of 30's, 40's and 50's too. **Jeff's Lake** has been a little up and down as it usually is this time of year with a lot of bait going in over the school holidays. Anglers have had some good days though with lots of F1's, Bream and carp caught to just over 8lbs. **Daughter's Lake** has seen the Grass Carp wake up a bit and there have been a few of the bigger ones being banked in the upper 20's and low 30's to a new lake record of 31lbs 9ozs banked by **Liam Baldwin**, Common Carp have been banked to 20lbs and Mirror Carp up to 20lbs also. **Eden Pond** has surprisingly in the heat fished quite well with Carp caught to 8lbs, Tench banked to 6lbs and Bream to 4lbs as well as silvers banked too. **Maze Lake** has, like usual has been a bit tricky in the heat but the anglers who have banked fish have reported to us that Mirrors and Commons have been banked to 9lbs, Bream have been caught to 5lbs and F1's to 3lbs. **Majors Lake** has seen quite a few anglers getting amongst the fish whether it be Bream to 6lbs 6ozs, Ghost Carp to 13lbs, Common Carp to 19lbs and Mirror Carp to 22lbs.

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



Micheal Strydon - 65lbs - Westlake



Martin Smith - 60lbs 8ozs 1 of 11 - Westlake



Archie - 17lbs 2ozs - Majors



Ian Chescoe - 19lbs 15ozs - Snipe



Jordan Simpson - 26lbs 7ozs - Snipe



Ollie Cottenham - 16lbs 11ozs PB Mirror - Daughters



Phil Clegg - 22lbs 14ozs - Snipe



Megan Henry-Skilton - 8lbs - Maze



Ollie Cottenham - 30lbs 4ozs PB - Daughters



Paul Kelly - 16lbs 2ozs PB - Majors



Rafe Shields - Jeff's



Ian York - 27lbs 4ozs - Snipe



Wayne Attwater - 17lbs 9ozs - Snipe



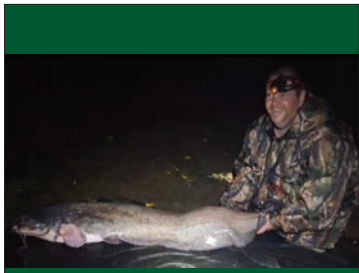
Jay Skilton - 9lbs - Maze



Chris Sheperd - 22lbs 5ozs - Snipe



Chris Pinnell - 27lbs 14ozs PB - Daughters



Karl Wallis - PB 60lbs



Liam Baldwin - 31lbs 9ozs PB & Lake Record - Daughters



Chris Edland - 32lbs 12ozs - Snipe



Julie Annsell - 40lbs 2nd PB - Westlake





Callum - 32lbs 8ozs Common - New Lake



Danny Speller - 28lbs 5ozs Common - New Lake



Danny Speller - 20lbs Mirror - New Lake

Tricklebrook Fishery Five Oak Green, Kent

Eva Bonner  
Common Carp  
New Lake



Adam Illsley - 25lbs Common Carp - Old Lake



Joe Bonner - Common Carp - New Lake

Eva Bonner  
Mirror Carp  
New Lake



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

www.beaverfarmfishery.co.uk

Email:  
beaverfarmfishery@live.co.uk  
Facebook: beaverfishery



We are a commercial day ticket fishery and have 2 Specimen Lakes, 3 Coarse Lakes and 3 Ponds.  
Open 7am - 7pm Summer time and 7am - 6pm Winter time. Day ticket, overnight and long stays welcome.

Facilities include:

- On Site Tackle Shop
- 9 Car Parks including Disabled Friendly Parking
- Shower/Wetroom
- Disabled Friendly Toilets
- Seasonal Snack Bar with Hot and Cold Food
- 1 hut available for hire



- Concessionary Tickets for Junior, Disabled and OAPs
- No pre-bookings taken for swims
- Win a FREE SESSION with our Fish of the Month Competition
- Automatic Security Gates that close at 7pm (Summer) 6pm (Winter)
- 24-hour CCTV



## Claygate Lakes Claygate, Marden, Kent

**Lake Eva** It's safe to say fishing has been up and down, very much like the weather at the moment! Corn, luncheon meat with bread in the afternoon is working well.

**Lake Sophie** Tench are coming out in the margins, tail of prawn has been working great to catch the tench on the bigger side.

**Lake Amy** We have to start with a huge WELL DONE to 11-year old **Ava** with a new **PB** of 17lbs! **Harry** and the girls seem to have had a busy weekend resulting in all the family catching. Thanks for the picture **Jay**, what a cracking looking fish! **'Monday Ray'** still at it and constantly catching on his secret bait. Thanks for the picture **Michael**, shame

about one of the A Team that got away...if you know you know. **Ron aka Rambo** had one of the A Team in for 20 minutes but lost it at the net, he managed to get another one out but I think looking at the picture he's still beating himself up a bit losing his catch. **NET DIPS** As a local fishery has been infected all anglers must use the net dip which is located in the car park **NO DIP = NO FISH**

**Claygate Membership & Day Tickets** We are a day/night ticket fishing but due to the cost of living we are offering 12 months membership on all lakes (12 months membership starting from payment) Please visit our website for further details or 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 & womens open all week.



### New Claygate Lakes

DAY & NIGHT FISHING - TN12 9PL

For all match and pleasure bookings and enquiries please ring Dave **07770 513448**

NIGHT FISHING ON ALL LAKES

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)





PRICES

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



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

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

LAKE RULES

1. A TICKET MUST BE PURCHASED BEFORE FISHING

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

3. NO NUTS OR PARTICLE

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

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

6. MINIMUM 15LB LINE AND NO BRAIDED MAIN LINE

7. NO SACKING OR RETAINING OF FISH IS PERMITTED. THE REMOVAL OF FISH FROM THIS VENUE WILL BE VIEWED AS A CRIMINAL ACT

8. EACH ANGLER MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF 42 INCH LANDING NET AND A LARGE PADDED UNHOOKING MAT/CRADLE REGARDLESS OF TARGET SPECIES ON SPECIMEN AND BACK LAKE

9. BARBLESS HOOKS ONLY

10. NO LEAD CORE, NO FUSED LEADERS OF ANY KIND INCLUDING SAFEZONE
11. NO FIXED LEAD RIGS. ALL LEADS MUST PASS FREELY OVER LEADER KNOTS. RIG CHECKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT

12. RECREATIONAL DRUGS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED - IMMEDIATE BAN FOLLOWS

13. PLEASE INFORM FISHERY MANAGEMENT OF ANY SNAGGED TACKLE OR FISH

14. ANY FISH OVER 28LB MUST BE REPORTED TO BAILIFF

15. NO DOGS ALLOWED

16. BARBECUES ALLOWED IF OFF THE GROUND

17. NO BAIT BOATS

18. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY OF THE RULES WILL RESULT IN BEING ASKED TO LEAVE AND/OR BANS WHERE APPROPRIATE AND NO REFUND WILL BE OFFERED

19. TRICKLEBROOK IS NOW OPERATING A ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY TO ANY ACTS OF AGGRESSION OR ABUSE TOWARDS ITS BAILIFFS AND STAFF

20. ALL RUBBISH TO BE TAKEN HOME

CCTV IN OPERATION  
OVER WHOLE SITE

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





# *Pestered by Pike*

*Last month I headed off to Wiltshire to fish the beautiful Hampshire Avon at Britford on my London Anglers Association member's ticket. I have been a member of the LAA on and off over the years since my school days and I have seen the list of venues in their handbook decrease very much especially in the last twenty years or so. However with that said they still have some excellent river venues to fish on the Avon, Thames and Ouse plus sections of the Suffolk Stour. However as far as Britford is concerned it has been at least four seasons since I last fished there and I planned for this trip to fish the section called Harnham Island where you can see the Salisbury Cathedral Spire standing proud above the town. The Spire at 404ft is the tallest in the United Kingdom but although that is a fascinating fact and blesses many anglers catch shots in the background, it does not put off the Pike especially when I am playing very big Dace.*

## *Early start on road to hell*

My day started with a 3.15am alarm call and just after 4am I was on the M25 making my way to Britford for a near two hour journey. I arrived at the car park along New Bridge Road and then with gear made my way across the field towards the river and through a gate which led over one of the carriers onto the island itself. I knew the swim I wanted to start my day off, and it was vacant, in fact I was the only angler there and my plan was to fish over two days and do some filming along the way. Using my 15ft Drennan Floatmaster rod, fixed spool reel spooled with 4lbs mainline I was running a Korum Avon 4G stick through its paces nicely as the flow was ideal and the river, although clear as it always is being a chalk stream river, did have a slight tinge of colour. Everything looked and felt perfect, the sky was overcast and it was drizzling with light rain, and a slight breeze blowing upstream. After about twenty minutes I had my first indication on the float and the next cast it buried and the first minnow of the day made its way into my grasp. A minnow first cast on double white maggot is the norm so there was no need for concern. Feeding a steady flow of maggots, casters and hemp in between each cast I was striking into what turned out to be a little plump roach of about six ounces. Splendid in all its colours. I was hoping a steady stream of roach would follow and the next run through produced a dace of about the same size. This is going to be a good day I thought to myself, as I placed the dace back into the

river and watched it swim away. Time to get the filming gear out, I thought, but in eager anticipation I made another cast and watched the float glide further downstream before disappearing out of sight. I lifted into a nice bend in the rod followed by a couple of thumps, it was a dace, a very good dace, as I saw it twist and turn in the clear current slowly making its way towards me with each turn of the handle. As I was watching the dace and thinking about getting my landing net primed to accept it, the fish disappeared and my rod locked up, I applied some pressure and saw my line and float glide across the current over to the far bank. Damn, I know what this bloody thing is! I pulled back a bit harder on the rod tip, and then saw it turn with my prized catch in its jaws. A pike of about eight pounds had taken a liking to my big dace, specimen dace at that and then just as I was going to net it, the jaws opened up and spat out this chewed up dace. It was a fine looking specimen but the damage had been done and its chances of survival looked grim.



*Fishing, it's what I was born to do*



## No more please Mr Pike

Sadly for me this set the tone for the next couple of hours with lean spells of no bites, except for minnows of course, and every time I got the dace back on the feed again with regular feeding the pike would smash into my catch time and time again. Anything under six ounces they would leave along but dace of specimen size was clearly on their menu and I was assisting them. I did manage to land a small bream which I think is the first bream I have caught out of the Hampshire Avon to the best of my memory, but any dace of note was being smashed. I took the decision of enough is enough and moved swim only to have the same thing happen again, and when the third move resulted in another pike show I decided to call it a day and packed up ending my trip full stop. I left Salisbury around midday very disappointed but vowed to return in a few weeks time for another bash in the hope that the pike will be less active. I have been keeping my eye on the catch reports and have been reading anglers are still having pike problems on the stretch and it seems they are just moving around with the dace and roach shoals which is probably what I would do if I was a hungry pike.



*A lovely Homersfield Roach*

## Slow start to my river sessions

In the past I normally give the rivers a few weeks before I attempt to fish them but due to lack of recent river action in what I call the best times to fish (autumn and winter) due mainly to heavy rainfall I have got on the rivers to try and make up for lost time but sadly with low levels and lack of flow the river season has been very slow especially as I have been fishing in the main some low stock river sections. But that said I love the early morning starts, misty mornings and hearing the sounds of running water over those low sections of river that pass over rocky and stoney sections almost forming weir like sounds. I can't think of a better way to spend a morning in the hope of landing a big chub whilst watching kingfishers working the river, damselflies fluttering around and of late a real mix of butterflies, some of which I have never seen the like before.

## Future fish filming projects



*I will be back for those Hampshire Avon Perch in Winter*

When I am not fishing I am thinking about fishing, it is what I was do and enjoy and I make no apologies for that. My Fishing Tail Films project is a reflection of what I like to do and although the channel is not at the point of where I want it to be just yet, I will get there and have set myself a target of trying to reach 2000 subscribers by the end of this year. I feel it is important to set goals and it gives me something to aim for, so all the time I am looking at different venues and fish species to present in front of the cameras in the hope of making it as interesting to the viewers as possible. I recently contacted an angling association that controls some sections of the River Wye, a beautiful river which in the main is set in wonderful scenic settings and the fishing can be good as well with chub and barbel the main targets for coarse anglers. I enquired about a particular section I was interested in and if they would allow me to make a film of my fishing travels for my small YouTube channel etc etc. The plan because of the distance to travel was going to be a two day fish filming trip which is something I do quite often when travelling some distance. Fishing cost was £25 a day, which is fine with me as it is very limited fishing and they only allow X amount of anglers on a day and that is perfectly fine with me but this is where my interest ended because in the next sentence of the

replied email it stated that filming is not allowed as we do all the promotion videos ourselves unless you are willing to pay the estate £1,000 a day to do some filming. I nearly dropped my phone when reading the filming costs and when I had digested what I had read, I politely replied ending my interest stating that the cost is way out of my league for a small channel to film. The reply back was 'well that is the league we are in...'

Have a great month and I will catch up with you again soon.





Neil Keutenius - 26lbs 10ozs Mirror - Clay Pits



Mark Day - Koi Carp - Sandwich Lakes



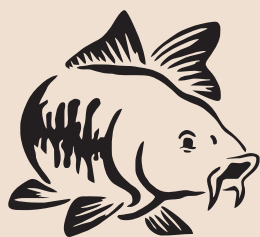
Shaun Bayliss - PB 13lbs Sturgeon - Edenbrook



Stuart Loder - 50lbs Catfish - Cackle Hill



Jackson Green - Common Carp - Club Lake



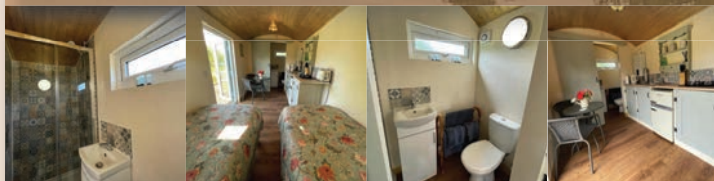
## Shirkoak Fishery and B&B



### WHY NOT TRY A POD?

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

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



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

Night fishing is permitted by prior arrangement only. We can also offer food delivered to your swim, our full English breakfast is proving extremely popular!

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



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

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

Follow us on Facebook  
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[www.shirkoakfarm.com](http://www.shirkoakfarm.com)

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





Sissinghurst Road | Biddenden | Kent | TN27 8EH

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

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

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

To book, please call or text us on **07933 934942**  
or visit our website **www.greenacresfarmfishery.co.uk**  
Email : greenacresfarmfishery@gmail.com





## Gabriels Fishery Edenbridge, Kent

**Admiral Lake** despite the recent hot weather the lake is fishing well with fish coming out of the water frequently. Most productive time being early hours of the morning. The wise old chunks appear to be lazily sunbathing during the day and feeding once cooled off at the evenings and mornings. Scopex & squid and Octopus & squid boilies being the golden bait to have in the warmer weather so far, with fruit flavours coming into demand now. King of the lake is still **Terry Hatcha**, with three carp in the late thirties caught in his last session! **Oak Lake** productive fishing for everyone who frequented this water during July and August, common, mirror and grass carp as well as good size bream could not resist the bait on the hooks. Oak has been a great fishing spot for families and the new fisherman gaining experience working their way to our specimen lake.



**Swallow Lake** fabulous and busy fishing sessions for almost everyone on Swallow this summer so far, very pretty, young carp plentiful in numbers, many fishing sessions seeing 6-10 fish out of the water per fisherman. This is an amazing lake just to spend the day, enjoying the nature and the action. **Silver Lake** our coarse fisherman's favourite is well stocked and continues to please every visitor. Special mention to **Paul and Martha** who have been visiting frequently always featuring lovely catches of bream and tench. **Hare Lake** now a predator water, has been quiet with the odd person fishing, however, an amazing surprise for senior fisherman who managed to hook close to 30lbs carp and land it safely after some heroic effort last week of July. Never too late to improve your PB! Very well done! Guess you must be some big, bulky, mean, experienced carp to live amongst all those pike!

**River Eden** the hay has been made on our stretch of the river and the banks are now accessible with ease.

Our specimen lake (Admiral) can now be booked in advance online as well as on the day at the fishery, please read the Terms & Conditions. The pleasure lakes are available on day/night tickets as usual. Our well stocked tackle and bait shop is open 7am-7pm through the summer months.



Terry - 36lbs 2ozs  
Common Carp  
Admiral Lake



Benno - 32lbs 10ozs Common - Admiral Lake



Jake - Common Carp - Swallow Lake

5 lakes and  
1.25 miles  
of the  
River Eden

Toilets and  
shower facilities

**GABRIELS  
FISHERY**

Advanced booking  
available  
Day & night  
session fishing

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Caravanning facilities

SWALLOW LAKE  
& HARE LAKE  
great for beginners

Specimen Lake  
ADMIRAL LAKE  
fish to 41lbs

OAK LAKE  
carp to 30lbs

SILVER  
Match Lake

Well stocked bait & tackle shop  
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24/7 vending machine stocking  
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Gabriels Fishery | Marsh Green Road | Edenbridge TN8 5PP

Bait and Tackle Shop: 01732 865355

Email: [info@gabriels-fishery.co.uk](mailto:info@gabriels-fishery.co.uk)

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



## Rodmill Carp Syndicate

10 acre lake situated on 80 acres of farmland

250plus fish to 30lb

15 swims, vehicle access to all swims

night fishing

limited spaces available

For More Information please contact

Scott 07766013492







## FRANT LAKES TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Eight lake day ticket  
fishing complex

**GREAT  
OPPORTUNITY  
at  
FRANT LAKES**

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for a new  
tenant for the  
onsite café,  
please call  
01892 616424  
for more  
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**Elphicks Fisheries** Horsmonden, Kent



Bono - 25lbs - Plantation Lake



Colin Owen - 44lbs 8ozs - Pullens Lake

# Elphicks Fisheries



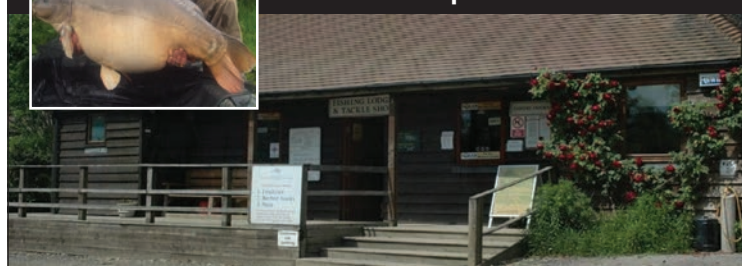
Elphicks has been designed and built with the modern angler in mind. We have 7 lakes available for day ticket and session fishing. Each lake has it's own parking within easy reach of the swims and all swims are 'all weather' - either built of Astroturf, stone or bark. Please contact the fishery for further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



**Elphicks Fisheries** Spelmonden Road  
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Tel: **01580 212512**

email: **info@elphicks-fisheries.co.uk**



**www.elphicks-fisheries.co.uk**



Steven Marks  
29lbs 7ozs  
Plantation Lake



Steven Marks  
31lbs 12ozs - Plantation Lake



Karl Owen - 43lbs 8ozs - Pullens Lake



Bob Goulds - 58lbs 3ozs PB - Pullens Lake



Steve Ford - 43lbs - Pullens Lake





Scan for Website  
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Pittlands Lakes Angling Club  
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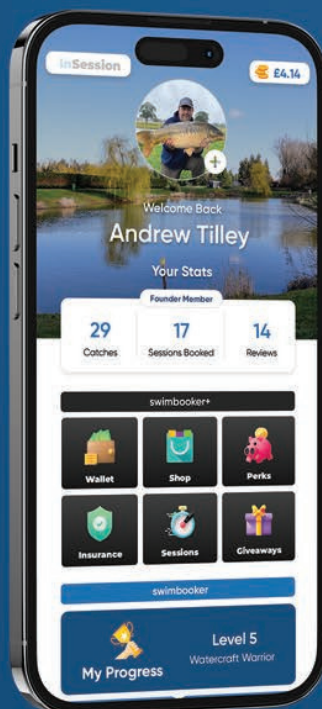




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Sharon - 30lbs 3ozs Catfish - Quarry Lake



Kane Reardon - 30lbs 5ozs Mirror - Main Lake



Max Laws - 39lbs mirror - Dove Lake



Steve Pendry - 31lbs 2ozs Common - Specimen Lake



Lee Marston - 32lbs Common - Specimen Lake



James Herbert - Specimen Lake



James Herbert - Specimen Lake

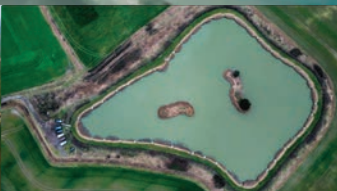


Charlie and Harvey Goodsell - 23lbs Catfish - Quarry Lake



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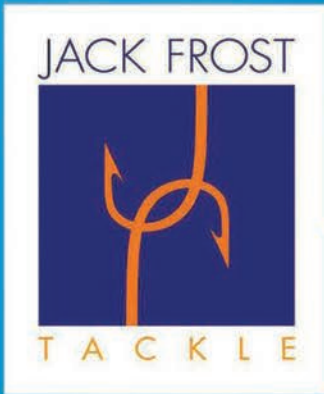


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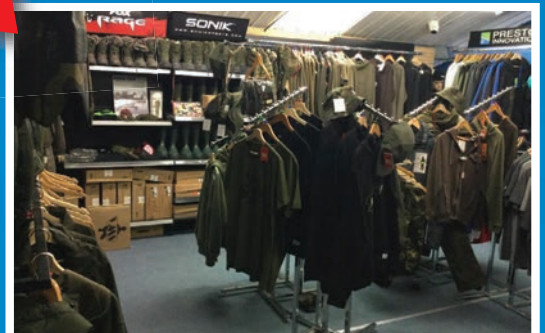
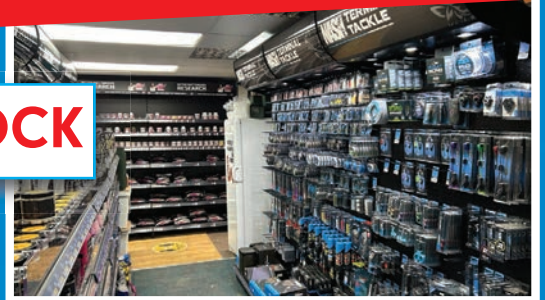


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## Diary of a Match Angler

# Summer League Final



Enough for 3rd place in the Summer League

The match was held at Gedges Fishery, on lakes 2 and 5 due to a great turn out of 20 anglers. Both lakes contain a mixture of species, bream, tench, carp, barbel, roach, rudd, ide, and perch. I ended up drawing peg 40 which is on the front bank of lake 5. From past experience fishing the lake I knew I was in the right area and was feeling confident. I set up two rigs one for fishing next to a bed of Lilly pads and one at 13m. The rig fishing next to the Lilly pads I was using a 0.5g chianti style float this was tied on 0.18 supplex with a bulk of 8 no.9's and two no.10 droppers. Then down to the business end I was fishing 0.12 supplex fluorocarbon hook length with a super LWG in a size 14. The reason I was fishing a heavy rig in about 4 and a half foot of water is because of the small Rudd that were intercepting my bait on the way down. On my 13m line i was fishing in around 6 and half foot of water, and because I wasn't getting pestered by small fish I could fish a 0.4g round bodied float with a bulk of 8 no.9 and two no.10 droppers again. This was again tied on 0.18 supplex with a 0.12 bottom with a super LWG in a size 14 again.

The match began and I started by feeding micros, hemp, chopped worm, dead reds and some sweet groundbait, loose to cloud up the bottom. I fed this through a bait dropper so I knew that my bait was on the bottom otherwise it would have been intercepted on the

drop. (I fed the same twice on this line) I then fed on my 13m line three balls of groundbait consisting of the same particles I fed on my short line, now my lines had settled it was time to go on my short line and see what was waiting. I started on a 4mm expander and had a Rudd straight way so I sacked it in and went on to corn, however I was having a lot of small indications from small ide. As I was about to ship back out, I saw my peg start to fizz up so instead of corn I tried a worm head topped with a single dead red maggot, it made it to the bottom and after a short wait the float sailed under with a tench of around a pound on the end. I fed again and did the same thing, put on a worm head topped with a maggot however this time it was intercepted by a small Rudd, so it was back to corn. Once again I was getting small ide but saw some fizzing again.

I kept my piece of corn on and wasn't long again before the float sailed under with a tench a little bigger than the first. I could still see the odd bubble coming up, so I went in again and had a small skimmer, I hoped that they had moved in, but I was wrong! The Rudd really became active and were now taking my corn on the drop, so I decided to bulk all my stotz together hoping it would sort the problem out and get my bait to the bottom but it didn't work. So what I did was



slop my groundbait up so it would fall straight to the bottom and make a cloud. I then decided it was time to go on my long line with a piece of corn but I could not get a touch. With the last hour to go I saw some more bubbling coming up from over the slop, so a piece of corn went on the hook and had another tench of around three pounds. Then It was back to catching the odd ide. I finished the match with 8lbs and oz's placing 8th which was less than I hoped for, Although it was enough to give me 3rd place overall in the Summer league. Something that I'm very pleased about, as I have only been participating in the matches for just over a year now. I managed 86lbs 10ozs over the summer league period which gave me 82 points.

With bait left over from my Sunday match I took the opportunity to get in a couple of practice sessions at a couple of local fisheries.

The whip caught Tench of 6lbs 2ozs





# at Gedges Fishery

*Freddy Joe Beaney*

## SESSION ONE

The set up I was using was a drennan acolyte 9ft commercial feeder rod matched with a daiwa ninja 2500 size reel. Down to the business end, I was using the ics feeder range from Preston innovation, I was using there 20g banjo feeder. This was then down to a ready made guru engage 9lb hook length with a size 10 QM1 hook with a bayonet. I was then loading the feeder with Dynamite F1 micros and fishing a yellow wafter.

I started by feeding three guru bait up feeder fulls of Dynamite swim stim F1 sweet ground bait and Dynamite swim stim F1 sweet micros, along with some self prepared hemp. It took no time at all before the peg started to fizz up, I wasted absolutely no time and picked up my method feeder rod and made the first put in of the evening, by the time my feeder had made its way to the bottom, I tightened up and the rod bent double with a very angry and hard fighting tench. After a hard fighting battle from the tench I quickly got it weighed at 5lb 8ozs. I slipped it back, and second chuck, the tip went again, this time with a decent size Rudd. After that I was having small Rudd and the odd quality roach up until it was time to go.



A quality Roach, amongst the Rudd

## SESSION TWO

I was targeting the rudd today, hoping for a specimen.

As I was travelling light on my moped, the tackle I took was a drennan acolyte pro whip 400 as it's telescopic and packs down nicely, along with my net, mat and bait.

Bait choice for the session was some Dynamite swim stim F1 sweet ground bait as it works amazingly well for all species, I also took some Dynamite sweetcorn, self prepare hemp and some maggots.

As I was fishing with the whip I was able to fish a pole rig, the rig I was using was a 0.4g chianti style float with 8 no. 9's in a bulk, this is then tied to 0.18 supplex down to 0.12 supplex fluorocarbon with a super LWG in a size 14.

I started by feeding some loose ground bait through a bait dropper, before loose feeding maggots over the top. Straight away there was lots of swirls as the Rudd moved in. I hooked a piece of corn on, flicked the rig out and had a decent rudd take it on the drop. This pattern was repeated, with a few bigger fish amongst them. Nowhere near specimen size, but good size to be catching on the whip. I was having one every put in and it was very enjoyable fishing.

Eventually the 'mini frenzy' died off and the bait actually reached the bottom. I thought that maybe a pike had entered my swim as it took a while for any more action. The float finally sailed under and I hook into something that tried to lunge off and bent the whip double, I still thought pike might be responsible. I played the fish as carefully as I could as the whip is a flick tip, meaning no elastic. I managed to keep it under control and got it to the waters surface. Incredibly, it was a big tench that I bundled into my landing net. At 6lbs 2ozs tench, I was amazed how well the whip, and the end tackle, had handled it.

With the tench safely weighed and photographed I got it back and carried on fishing, I was getting a lot of small Rudd again, with the odd bigger one amongst them. I hooked a larger roach and as I was about to net it, a little jack came out of nowhere and took it, fortunately it let go, meaning I could still land it. After the attack I called it a day as the swim went absolutely dead and I could not get another bite. Although I was more than pleased with the results of a few hours fishing.



The result of a few hours fishing





Stuart Hill - 27lbs 14ozs Common - New Spec, Wylands



Ryan - 18lbs Common - Stones Fishery



Sara Henham - 22lbs 8ozs Ghostie - Mousehole Lakes



Matthew Craft - 28lbs 8ozs Common Carp - Local Water



Nick Kelly - 33lbs 4ozs Mirror Carp - Cackle Hill



Joe Marney - 27lbs 2ozs Common - Cotton Farm



Austin Capon - 21lbs 15ozs - Stour Valley Complex



Paul Lambert - 32lbs 6ozs Mirror - Syndicate Venue



Brandan Hale - PB 20lbs 10ozs Mirror - Local Water



Ian Harley - 32lbs 9ozs Common - New Spec, Wylands



Jack Holden - 34lbs Common - Cotton Farm Syndicate



Jamie Jones - 26lbs Mirror - Brooklands Lakes



Lee Macdonald - 30lbs 5ozs Carp - Hawkurst Fish Farm



William Benningfield - 18lbs Linear - Private Water



Darren Bartholomew - PB 27lbs 7ozs Carp - Frant Lakes



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Fish of the Month Prize Winner

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Although our **ParkerBaits** competition is open to fish of all species and sizes, it is difficult to ignore such an impressive catch of large carp. Especially when the catch photographs are so well balanced and show the fish off to their best.

Fishing at Cottington Lakes, **Robert Drouin** landed an immaculate common of 32lbs, along with Mirrors of 29lbs, 38lbs and 39lbs (front cover) to be the worthy recipient of this months Bait Package.



Robert with a 38lbs Cottington Mirror



Fred Smith - 24lbs Mirror - Park Lake



Ben South - 13lbs Common - Surrenden Lakes



Asa Shaw - 34lbs 2ozs Common - Wylands



Connor Baker - 15lbs Mirror - Mill Lodge



Jack Keutenius - Fully Scaled Mirror - Tricklebrook



Joe Marney - 26lbs 10ozs Mirror - Cotton Farm



Jamie Hayward - 36lbs Common - Loggies Lake



Robert Joe - PB 28lbs Common - Stour Valley Lakes



Shaun Bayliss - PB 17lbs Carp - Edenbrook Fishery



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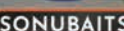


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**Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society**

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All of our lakes are fishing well, with good sized Carp, Tench and Bream being caught.

**The Old Ballast Pit** is producing some very good Carp captures as **Joseph Ellis** found out on his first visit. Joseph had 16 takes which resulted in 9 fish, including two 30lbs+ fish and several other lovely looking grown on stock fish. **Ashley Potts** had a couple of bangers from Barden, one at 38lbs and another of 27lbs 1oz.

The youngsters have been doing well, catching various species. **Harry Kyles** had a nice Bream from **Longfield Lake** Tom Fowler's two grandsons had a great day on the **New Lagoon** as did **Matthew Webb's children** who can't wait to visit again. **Austin Battell** gave his two grandsons an introduction to fishing and they are now looking forward to their visit to the New Lagoon.

**The river** is producing some fine individual specimens with Roach to well over a pound and several upper twenty pound Carp and an eleven pound plus Barbel.

Society bailiff **Gaz Saunders** caught a huge Crucian looking Carp weighing 5lbs 7ozs.



**MATCH RESULTS:**

**FLOAT ONLY MATCH**

<b>Hartlake Up – 15 fished 11/8/24</b>		
1st	Mick Smith	8lbs 7ozs
2nd	Ditch Howard	7lbs 13ozs
3rd	Austin Battell	7lbs 10ozs
	John Cooper	7lbs 10ozs

**RON WILLIAMS CUP (maggot only)**

<b>Hartlake Down – 20 fished 18/8/24</b>		
1st	Dave Roberts	11lbs 4ozs
2nd	Pat Galpin	11lbs 2ozs
3rd	Chris King	7lbs 4ozs
	Colin Fowler	7lbs 4ozs

**BOB CHAPMAN POLE CUP**

<b>East Lock Down – 20 fished 19/8/24</b>		
1st	Andrew Goldthorpe	13lbs 3ozs
2nd	John Cooper	11lbs 6ozs
3rd	Pat Galpin	9lbs



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e-mail: [lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk](mailto:lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk)

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# Jim's Journey

***During the warmer weather I have noticed quite a few people surface fishing. Seeing their results, it was a technique that I wanted to learn more about and add to my armoury. So with my Dad, and the most basic of tackle, we set out to Iden Wood Fishery to try our luck.***

We arrived at the fishery just as the owner, Andy Ashdown, was opening the gates, which was a great opportunity to get some advice. Andy explained that although surface fishing can be effective across all of the lakes on the complex, he recommended Orchard Lake as it was a little more secluded and less pressured. This seemed a good option to us, and having paid our ticket money, we set off down the track to the lakes.

Orchard Lake is the last of the five lakes on the fishery and nestled away, a short walk through the woodland past the venues Specimen Lake. At around 1.5 acres, it is reed lined with an undulating bank and contains a mix of species.



*First cast success*

Immediately we could see a number of fish cruising

in and around a particularly prominent reed bed that covered much of the central area of the lake.

With the lake to ourselves, it was an ideal opportunity to introduce some freebies before setting up our rods. We had bought along a variety of baits. Dad was going 'old skool' with crusty bread and chum mixer, while I had had a bag of Dynamite Baits Sweet Tiger floating pellets to try.

Starting with the mixers, the response was instant, and almost immediately a number of fish started taking in earnest. We couldn't set up fast enough!

On Dad's advice, I simply tied a size 8 hook onto the end of my mainline to allow me to freeline. The reason for this was two fold, 1) there was no need to cast very far, and 2) if a fish made it to the reeds there was less chance of snagging up than with a controller float on the line. Although Dad was there to fish, he was more interested in seeing me catch and offering me advice on how to surface fish, and was quite happy for me to take the first cast. For a hookbait, I simply tore off a chunk of crust off the bread and threaded it on the hook.

My first cast looped over a reed right on the edge of where the reed bed started and I was tempted to reel it in and try again, but as Dad pointed out, the reed helped keep the line off the water and spooking the fish, as well as preventing it from drifting out of position. We fed a few more mixers and the carp really started competing. The reed supporting my bait twitched before a mouth came up and engulfed the bread. The fight was quite hair raising on a short line, and I was quite glad that I'd hooked one of the smaller fish in

front of us to start with. Managing to keep it out of the reeds, I was soon able to bundle a nice looking mirror carp into my landing net. Not quite a double at 9lbs 9ozs, we treated the hook hold and took a couple of shots before returning it.

The disturbance had pushed the other carp back into the reeds, so it was a case of regaining their confidence with steady feeding. There is definitely an art to feeding floaters, too few and the fish won't respond, too many and you run the risk of losing the fish from the swim as they follow the freebies in the drift. Half a dozen at a time seemed to be the best compromise between drawing the fish out of the reeds into open water, rather than blanket feeding the area, which meant that the fish could stay in cover and pick off baits as they drifted into them.

Once a few fish had started to take again, I cast out another piece of bread but it was obvious that the carp were suspicious of it. A number of times, carp would

make a beeline for it, only to turn away at the last second.

Dad suggested swapping to a banded mixer as it matched what we were feeding. It was simple enough to stretch a silicone band around a bait, using a banding tool, and thread it onto the hook. Without the weight of the bread, casting was a little more difficult, but I decided to persevere without anything else on the line.



*Banding hookbaits made easy*



*A central reed bed harboured most of the carp*



*Jim nets another Iden carp*





### An exercise in concentration

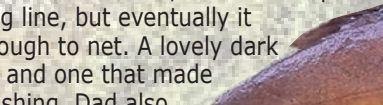
Takes were far harder to spot with the smaller hookbait, and that combined with the fish still been a little spooky, meant that i had trouble timing my strike, resulting in a number of missed opportunities. Just as the frustration almost got too much I managed to connect with my second fish of the day. Smaller than the first, but no less welcome, this one was a common. Once again we went through the process of introducing freebies to entice the fish to feed, although this time they were notably slower. Having caught a couple, I was happy to let Dad have a go, and with some perseverance he managed a nice low double mirror. By now it was mid morning and we decided to take a little break from fishing and have a cup of tea and a sandwich.

By the time that we got back to fishing, the breeze had got up a bit, causing quite a ripple on the water. The fish were showing very little interest in the mixers by this point, so I decided that it was time to break out my floating pellets. A number of bait companies have started making these, I had gone for the Sweet Tiger variety from Dynamite Baits. On first glance they looked very similar to our bulk standard mixer, and we thought that they would probably get a similar response. How wrong we were! I don't know what is in them but they obviously contain something that appeals to carp and causes an enthusiastic feeding response. Fish that were idling around in the reeds taking the odd bait, were suddenly grabbing every bait they could.

Earlier I mentioned that overfeeding could drag the fish out the increased drift leading to a more open area of the

fed heavily to encourage the carp to a swim where it was easier to fish for them. I rebaited my hook bait version of the pellet and cast out. Straight away I was into another fish, and then another. Whether it was the specialised bait, me timing my strikes better, the drift breaking up the the fish confidence, or perhaps a combination of all three, the fish just kept coming. The ripple died for me to spot a larger, darker shape homing in on the freebies. I quickly reeled in and cast to pausing, the carp came straight up, grabbed the bait and carried on. I set the hook huge eruption in the water, as the fish realised its mistake.

It did it's best to make it out of the swim and back to the reeds, and at a couple of points I had to clamp down hard to stop it taking line, but eventually it began to tire and I was able to bring it close enough to net. A lovely dark mirror of 15lbs 5ozs, the biggest fish of the day and one that made me feel that I was getting the hang of surface fishing. Dad also managed a couple more before we had to leave, so it was a great session all round. As we were loading up our gear, we saw Andy again and it was really interesting to hear how his involvement with the Freshwater Informer stretches right back to it's very beginnings 28 years ago, as well as the other lakes on the fishery. I look forward to getting back to try them.



of the swim, but with lake, we deliberately hook with the softer another, and surface and giving off just long enough intercept it. Without and there was a



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Andy Lush  
- The Friendly Fisherman

## ***Just when I thought I'd got it sussed, the carp have changed their behaviour!***

***On recent trips I have found carp near the surface, but swimming too fast to be looking for food. They were not spooked, just not feeding. By now they should have been looking to eat? I could get some to stop in my swim, by feeding floaters sparingly and less often, even changing sizes. They would then take a pellet or two before continuing to who knows where? On returning a short while later they would circle around the baited area take another pellet or two, before disappearing completely!***

Often these fish were accompanied by one or two others. Which makes me wonder if this is somehow connected with their incomplete spawning, earlier in the spring? By now I had assumed that urge would have passed. I've spoken to friends who are fishing other waters, using conventional carp methods, and they too have experienced mixed results. To quote one, "it's been the worst spring/summer I've ever known, it wouldn't surprise me if not all the fish have spawned yet".

### ***The fishing***

So having got all my excuses in early, let me recount a typical frustrating sequence of events. I enjoy fishing different waters as often as possible, as the fishes behaviour differs from one lake to another, even on the same fishery. Their response to floating baits can vary too. Adapting my approach to each situation has seen me 'fine tune' my tactics and improve my results.

First thing I do on arrival, whenever possible, is to scope out the lake by walking around. I'm looking for signs of fish, before choosing a swim. Once I'm happy there are enough fish present, I start feeding a few 11mm floaters, and watch for a reaction. I'll continue trickle feeding, hoping the noise will alert and attract some carp to the swim. All the time I'm trying not to be seen, using any bank-side cover available to hide behind. At this stage I'm not fishing, leaving the water undisturbed. I want to get the fish feeding confidently and ideally competing with others, before disturbing the water by casting. However, black headed gulls see this as an opportunity for some free food and often begin swooping down taking my floaters. I have to start casting now to scare them off. If not gulls, then ducks, moorhens or geese also find this free food irresistible! So now my covert plan is well and truly blown! It's not always this bad, but factor in the changeable weather, which I'm sure is a major cause for the carp's fickle behaviour, and you can see why my surface fishing hasn't been as successful this season.

### ***No two days are the same!***

Having illustrated what can go wrong, let me recount two days, in the same week on Kettles Lake at Elphicks fishery [TN12 8EL] as an example. I arrived early on a Wednesday morning. I prefer mid-week sessions on commercial waters whenever possible as they are less busy.



*A solid chunky mirror that took a liking to a FM Disco fly*

It was mild, overcast with almost no wind, perfect conditions! I catapulted two pouches of 11mm floaters into my chosen swim and then set about tackling up. Landing net first, before I assembled my rod and then decide what fly to use? I watch the water, wanting to see how the carp are reacting to my loose feed. A few fish are mouthing the pellets, but are very cautious. I pult a few more pellets in twos and threes, to see if the sound attracts them? Certainly they are aware more food has arrived. Immediately fish appear after each new delivery of bait. I chose a Fulling Mill Disco fly in tan, as it mimics the Skretting's pellets I'm using closely. The Disco sits very low in the water's surface, which makes it a good choice when the fish are coming from directly below the fly, and gently sipping at it. I strike and miss several fish over the next couple of hours. Finally I hook and lose three fish! Two of these were foul hooked. This can be a problem when you have too many fish in a small area. On calm days it's worth spreading your feed a little wider to avoid this happening. With a little breeze, the ripple will spread the bait for you.



Finally around mid-day it happens, the fish switch from being just curious to ravenous feeding, and now take the floaters with gusto! I struggle to see the Disco, with violent swirls as carp eagerly compete for the bait! Sometimes two fish try taking the same pellet, and spook each other. I change my fly to a more buoyant Fulling Mill Close Copy Biscuit, its colour is much closer to the Skretting's pellet than the Bonio fly. This makes a huge difference, as I start catching a carp every fifteen minutes, and this continues for the next three hours!

The action finally slows, but I still manage to catch a few more. I have to adapt my presentation and bait application, to keep the fish coming. They're more cautious again, but by gradually dropping my loose feed closer and closer to me, I can target individual fish that I can clearly see swimming just sub-surface. An accurate cast just ahead of them, in their path induces further takes. I've now changed to smaller Hopper Popper fly in black. These sit partially through the surface, with their foam head just peaking through the film. The fish will take these, even though they look nothing like the pellets! The secret is getting the fly right in front of the carp, in their field of vision, which is very narrow now they are swimming so close to the surface.

The day comes to an end too soon, but I'm exhausted. I've spent the best part of twelve hours non-stop fishing. I've only sat down on my bucket to change flies or retie a leader. This is a typical day fly fishing. I'm always watching the water and fish, trying to work out how to catch the next one. Twenty two fish, including seventeen doubles a very successful day, my best this season.

## Two days later....

As you can imagine I was keen to have another day on Kettles lake. The forecast was for rain in the morning with a gentle breeze, gradually brightening up in the afternoon with the wind picking up too. Not ideal conditions but I couldn't resist the chance of some more surface action. Being a Friday I knew the lake would be busier than my previous visit. To my surprise an end swim was vacant, so I dropped in it immediately. This gave me a large expanse of untouchable water to my left. The breeze was coming from my left too, which meant I could use it to drift my loose feed out into open water, towards the island. I hoped this would draw fish into my swim, if they weren't already there? It didn't take too long for the first visitors to arrive. Having now tackled up and re-fed the swim twice more, I decided to go for a walk and look at another lake. This stopped me from getting too excited and starting fishing too soon.

On my return my swim didn't appear to have many fish in it, but those present seemed settled and happy to feed, something I've struggled to achieve all season! I tied on a prototype 'pellet popper' fly I'd just tied. I was keen to see what the carp thought of it? First impressions were very good as I caught three doubles, two being grass carp, before my lunch break. I expected the carp would start eagerly feeding in the afternoon, as they had on Wednesday, but this wasn't the case. In fact the opposite happened, they disappeared! Maybe the bright sunlight was the cause? Whatever the reason my swim had died! Rather than overfeed the swim in a desperate effort to liven things up, I went for another walk, deciding to "starve them out". I hoped when I returned and started trickle feeding again they would return. Unfortunately this tactic didn't work. So I moved swims, to where I'd found several fish, in an area away from other anglers and their lines.

I was more exposed to the strengthening wind in my new swim, but with plenty of fish to go at I felt confident this was a good move. What's more, as soon as I introduced loose feed they started feeding without hesitation. This was all I needed to see, after two blank hours, I was 'in the game again'. I had reverted to the Disco fly, with it's florescent sight tag. I needed something I could see in the glare and ripple. I quickly caught two double figure mirrors, which added to my confidence, and hoped that more would follow. That didn't happen, as the strengthening wind started dragging my fly across the ripple in a most unnatural way. No carp was going to be fooled by



*Not everyone's favourite but I do like a grass carp*



*This pretty little common had to get it's picture taken*



*Forceps were required to retrieve the pellet popper fly, it was taken so confidently*

this presentation. As the sun slowly dipped in the late afternoon, it created a patch of silver water in front of me. This glare made it impossible to see the carp or my fly. I was now resigned to the fact that my chances of catching any more fish was unlikely. My only option was to feed much closer to the margin, this reduced the glare and allowed me to see the fish before they broke the surface. I also fed some smaller floaters to hold fish in the area longer. This ploy accounted for one more fish!

All in all, I'd had an interesting but frustrating day! I shouldn't be so hard on myself, six doubles is a good day. However after my previous trip, I had hoped for more of the same. I know that's greedy, but it's that drive and desire to improve that keeps me going.

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



# Junior Informer



## JUNIOR COMPETITION

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### Well worth the wait



In an age where carp tend to dominate catch reports, it is refreshing to see a young angler who is prepared to put in the effort to experience the wider range of species that fishing has to offer. One such fisherman is **Finnegan Kelly**, who is already carving out a reputation as an accomplished all rounder. With both specimen catfish and perch to his credit, Finnegan turned his attention to running water in an attempt to catch a barbel. Putting in a lot of walking on his local Sussex Ouse, his efforts paid off when this fine 8lbs specimen picked up his luncheon meat hookbait. A worthy winner of this months **Sussex Bait Developments** bait package, we look forward to seeing which species he will target next.



### Three of the best for Jack

**Jack Ayles** is right at the very beginning of his fishing journey, having only picked up a rod for the first time at the beginning of his summer holidays. But now the 12-year old is well and truly hooked. After getting some guidance on how to catch, land, and handle fish safely, he wasted no time in putting his new skills to use, banking this trio of mirror carp from an overgrown farm pond. We are sure that the advice contained in **Carl Smith's** book 'The Simple Fishing Guidebook' will give Jack a valuable insight into all forms of coarse fishing.







Benjamin Pearce - 23lbs 8ozs Mirror - Mousehole Lakes



Charlie Hawkey - PB 11lbs 7ozs Carp - Orchard Place



Harley Williams - 15lbs 2ozs Mirror - Dartford Lakes



Grace - PB 12lbs 8ozs Carp - Falkenville Fishery



Harvey Royal - 17lbs Carp - Elphicks Fishery



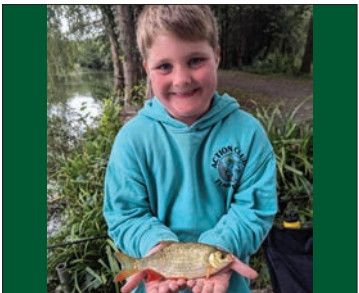
Oliver Rat - 1st fish - Marshside Fishery



Nathan Lee - 17lbs Common - Darenth Lakes



Lily-Rose Kemp - Common Carp - Wylands Farm



Zac Bayliss - 1st fishing trip - Edenbrook Fishery



Oliver Walter - 14lbs 6ozs Koi - Frogmore Fishery



William Rose - Common Carp - Sandwich Lakes



Grace Burgess - Common Carp - Sandwich Lakes



Dom Windsor - PB 38lbs 5ozs Mirror Carp - Barden



Freddie Divers - Fully Scaled Mirror - Shorne Woods



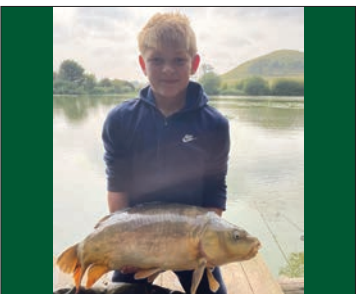
Charlie Rose - PB 22lbs Mirror - Local Water



Devon Castleman - PB 20lbs Common Carp - Wishing Tree



Jamie Haddikin - 21lbs Catfish - Darenth Lakes



Freddie Grindley - 22lbs 1oz Mirror - Beachborough



Benjamin Pearce - 24lbs Common Carp - Mousehole Lakes



Buddy Lawrence - PB 35lbs Common Carp - Claypits

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# September update

by instructor Warren White

*For me, part of being a Fishing coach is keeping in touch with old students*



## GAME FISHERMAN – LUKE

When the Fishing course is over, this could be to give advice on fishing matters or even for the well-being of the person. Recently I had an email from a mum of one of my ex-students ( Liam ) from Thamesview school, Gravesend, I hadn't heard from her for 5 Years. She wanted advice on joining a fishing club for both of her lads, Liam now 20, and Luke 13 years and wanted to know of any fishing programmes for kids in the summer holidays aimed at her younger lad Luke.



**Luke - Sailfish 6.7.24**



**Vaughan family Luke, Liam, Sam, Scott & Amberjack - 17.8.24**

I knew Liam well from his school days, he had taken part in a Fishing for Schools course that I had run at the school. Luke is his younger brother that I had never met but had heard a lot about from his mum. Luke is the new fishing boy on the block, who had out fished his dad, an accomplished Fisherman himself, catching huge tarpon, sailfish, and a bull shark on a recent holiday in Florida, the stuff dreams are made of for a young angler. A talented family of anglers.

When I first met Liam in his school days, I noticed how competent Liam was on all types of Freshwater fishing and what set him apart from the other Students was how keen he was to learn more about fishing. Each year we used to run an inter schools match for the schools on the Kent, Fishing for School's programme and Liam and this team won the match, quite convincingly. Whilst coaching Liam one day, he mentioned what he got up to on his summer holidays in Florida, where he had caught sailfish and bull shark. On the next fishing session, he brought in some photos of his catches, which really blew my mind. The first time I saw the pictures of Liam's fishing exploits in Florida was 5 years ago, on this holiday in 2019. Liam was suffering from Scoliosis, which is a curvature of the spine. He had an operation on his back and thought he would he'd be back to fishing in 2020 but covid stopped that. Liam is doing well now, and he starts university in September, his back is all healed now and signed off from the hospital. Florida game fish beware!



**Luke holding Sailfish - 13.8.24**



**Luke playing fish**



**Luke - Tarpon**



**Luke - Bull shark**



Liam’s Dad is a keen game angler which has rubbed off on his sons, but success from catching a fish such as a sailfish is never easy. Like all fishing, it’s about knowledge, the right weather conditions, and a bit of luck. The best thing to put you at an advantage, is hiring the right skipper, and in Jimmy Gagliardini – High Caliber Sport Fishing in Marathon Florida Keys, they certainly have that.

**FISHING FOR SCHOOL’S MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY GROUPS**



*Charlton Athletic Community Mental Health Group*



*Charlton Athletic Community Fishing trip*



*Artwork entry - A Crafty Pike*

Something that I always look forward to in the Summer school holiday break is the work Fishing for schools do with our Mental health groups in Kent. Money was quite tight this year, but eventually through fund raising etc, I got the green light to organise some sessions with our groups. We work with 4 organisations, Charlton Athletic Community, who were voted EFL’s Football club of the year for 2024 for their work in the community. We also have two Choice Support groups, one from Footscray and one from Dartford, and the fourth organisation is The Trevor Gibbens unit from Maidstone hospital.

Fishing for schools have been working with these groups for over a decade. We find that our groups really benefit being outdoors. Fishing is great therapy for everyone, but in the case of the mental health groups, fishing creates a calm and welcoming



*Choice Support  
Footscray - blackberrying*

environment which helps to reduce stress and anxiety. At our sessions we like talk and get to know our groups, so that they trust us. Its not only about enjoying the fishing it is more about our Groups having a good day, we have even incorporated some enjoyable and fun blackberry picking at Hadlow – I am expecting a blackberry crumble at our next session! As well as the fishing sessions we like to run an Art Competition, which all Our Mental health groups can enter. This year’s subject is fishing, and I know already that there has been some high quality artwork done from the early entries.



## The Golden Years of Coarse Fishing

by Bob Rolph

***Legends of the 60's - No.6******Trevor Housby***

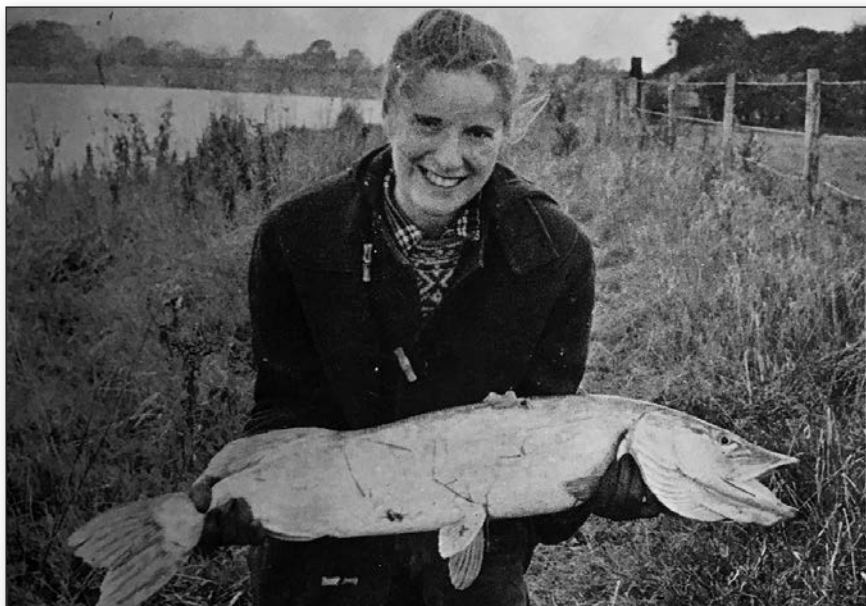
*Few anglers of the 20th century could emulate the achievements of the great Trevor Housby in Big Game fishing, sea angling, trout fishing and coarse fishing. During his short life he achieved so much, wrote and edited over 30 great books, published hundreds of articles mainly in Anglers Mail and Fishing magazine and invented the proverbial Dog nobbler trout fishing lure! He lived most of his life in Hampshire, on the edge of the New Forest at a village called Sway, near where so many of our great angling writers lived, like Chris Ball, Chris Yates, Len Arbery, Dave Steuart, Peter Rolfe, Andy Little and Jack Hargreaves.*

Nothing could have been more extreme than where I first encountered him during my long school holidays in the summer of 1957, when roach fishing off the 'railings' at Keston Ponds in those halcyon days when the sun shone all day and the fish gave themselves up in vast numbers to young boys keen as mustard and popped them into our yellow keepnets tied to the roadside rail!

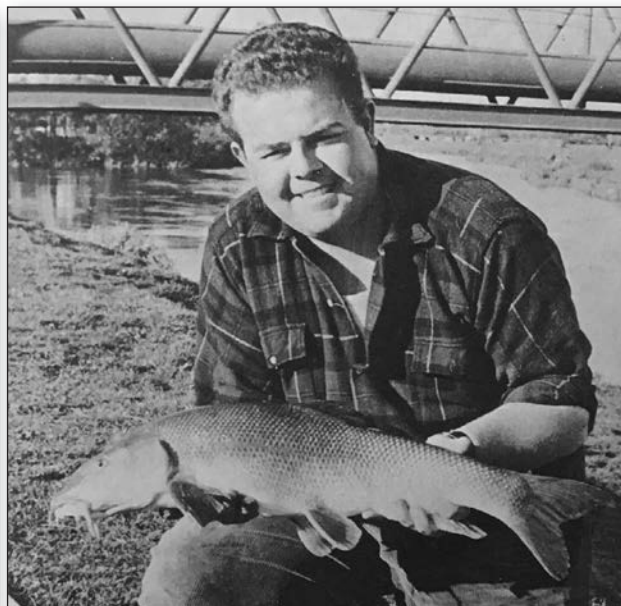
The roach and small perch fishing off the road dam at Keston with float fished maggot, hemp or chrysalis was prolific, and dozens of young boys like me, still at school arrived by bike and fished in line, with our yellow keepnets and Effgeeco tackle boxes at the ready to

fish for the Red finned roach, which smelt like cucumber and looked like pure gold. Nothing was much over a pound in weight, but our nets were bulging and many a Hayes and Bromley lad learnt their fishing here. Ken Rowley, was there, Steve Edwards, Chris Haswell, Dennis Darkin, John Kane and Ron Blackmore, and I believe our own Bob Morris joined us too. Carp were never mentioned, the best we could hope for was a 2lbs Tench, or crucian carp, but we knew big commons were in there, because Henry Williamson had told us so in his books of 1922, "long lean wild commons, with scales as big as (old) pennies". Henry was the author of 'Tarka the Otter' and 'Salar the Salmon', famous books in their day. Anyway, I digress. One day in August 1957 a van pulled up behind us on the railings and out got a largish young man carrying the biggest landing net we young boys had ever seen. He proceeded to open the rear doors, where on the floor were about a dozen wet hessian sacks all jumping up and down! What on earth could be in these? we all thought to ourselves. We young boys of average age of 12 had never seen a live carp on the bank, and Bob Reynolds catches just published in the Angling Times were fresh in our minds, so it must have been mid August in 1957, because a very young Steve Edwards was barely 8 years old. The wet sacks were carefully lifted out of the van and placed in the waters edge, where they immediately sprung to life. In these sacks were carp, mostly mirrors and leathers between 8lbs and 13lbs, and we had never seen the like of them before!

I can remember it clearly to this day, as it had such an effect on me. They had all been caught the night before at Summerhill Estate Lake near Tonbridge by Trevor and Dennis Darkin, where the fish were so prolific that someone decided to give them a cull, and move them around a bit. A lot of this went on in those days, much to the displeasure of the old Kent River Board!. I have letters from Trevor Housby telling me of the 10 fish sessions that they had down there in the 1950s, Leney fish stocked after the war, as were so many lakes in the south of England. Chris Ball



Carol with a 14lbs Pike



A 9lbs Barbel from the Royalty



had all the ledgers, as to where they were all put in. Soon, I believe, to be published in book form by the new custodians of these historic documents.

About a dozen carp were released into Keston Ponds (Caesars Pool) that day, and more followed, so I believe, and they have thrived ever since in the alkali rich water of pH 7.7, on my last test 10 years ago! Many were original Donald Leney strain stock from Tonbridge and another Surrey water and the anglers were Dennis Darkin, Trevor and Bill Bellini from Bromley, We young boys were enthralled with them, and the carp, and we changed our tactics soon afterwards discarding the roach of the railings swim for floating crusts and worms around the Lilly pads, stalking these dark blue shapes at dawn and dusk. Three years passed before I encountered Trevor Housby again. By then I had caught several of these carp from Keston in my summer holidays from school. None were double figure, but they were now Keston carp non the less. Trevor lived up in central London at that time in WC1 with his girlfriend Carol, and I bumped into him in Peaks tackle shop in Greys Inn Road one day when he was taking to Bernard Venables about game fishing. He was pleased to hear that the carp he had put into Keston 3 years earlier were still thriving and being caught by local anglers like Ken Rowley and me.

Some time later I joined the Homesdale A.C. down at Dunton Green near Sevenoaks and met up with him roach fishing on Longford Lake during the early 1960s. The roach fishing was outstanding down there at the time, and many a 2lber was taken on hemp and float from the margins. It must have been June 1964, as I had just passed my driving test and I fished at Homesdale pit and Spicers pit next door where Hilton, Quinlan and Roger Smith were just starting off their carp fishing quests at one of the first syndicate carp lakes in the country. £10 a season it was down there, payable to Fred Spice in High Street, Sundridge, Kent. The Bromley pits over the other side of the main railway line were also famous for Tench and the huge beds of Swan mussels that I used to collect for my Catfish Fishing up in Bedfordshire, years later.

Trevor fished with Ron Barnett and Carol Carter in those days, later to team up with Carol and Gerry Preston, both were good carp anglers, but Trevor was not a specialist carp angler despite having fished at Wadhurst Lake during the 1950s with Fred J. Taylor, Gerry Berth Jones and latterly Kevin Clifford. I once fished at Wadhurst as a guest of someone, having walked down that long hill



**Big Game fishing became Trevor's passion**

to the lakeside to witness the vast hordes of small wild carp spawning in the margin reeds. Between the wars huge catches of small wild common carp were made down there, with catches of 50 or more fish not uncommon. Many years elapsed before I saw Trevor again, save a few phone calls enquiring about my Trout Fishing at the new Bewl Reservoir near Lamberhurst. He had moved down to Hampshire on the edge of the New Forest, to Sway where he opened a small tackle shop and became a professional Lobster Fisherman around the Isle of Wight. He was also keen on Trout fishing on the new waters like Dever Springs and Damerham, where he once caught a brace of 10lbs Browns, and fished the Test as well. He invented the Dog Nobbler trout lure, a divisive lure so well used on our reservoirs by people like me, but it was his interest in sea fishing and big game fishing that took over his life in later years, about 1970 I would say. He lived near Jack Hargreaves, and they drank at the Fleur de Lys pub at Pilley, actually just down the road from where Chris Ball used to live 10 years ago. Chris once took me there. Jack and Trevor were regulars out of the Isle of Wight, and off the shore, shark and reef fishing.

A prolific writer of articles for many periodicals and 32 books in total on sea fishing, coarse and trout, his book 'Dream Fishing' tells of his time big game fishing all over the world. He wrote regularly in the 4 main magazines of the time Fishing, Angling, Anglers world and Creel. Big Game fishing took over his life in the 1980s, fishing all over the world for Marlin, Shark and Tuna. He broke records for many of the huge fish he caught. In 1979 he teamed up with Roger Daltrey fishing off Walkers Cay in the Bahamas in a Tuna competition, but it was off Fayal in the Azores that he really hit the big time in Sept 1985 catching record Blue Marlin, trolling huge lures off the back of the boat Rabao, catching fish of 705lbs, 760lbs and 855lbs, landed on to the back of the boat. Bone fish, Barracuda and Wahoo also received his attention in the Bahamas and in Madeira he fished for shark off the same old boat 'The Altair' that Bernard Venables had used 25 years earlier.

Today, Trevor's son Russ runs a charter big game fishing business on the tropical island paradise of Vanuatu, 1000 miles east of the Great Barrier Reef, where his boat the MV Nambas can be seen on you tube videos if you look for The Captain Fishing Charters. Trevor Housby's first book, 'The Art of Angling' published in 1965 features his early coarse fishing career in and around Kent, with Ron Barnett and Carol, and I bumped into them fishing several times in my youth when I was just starting out. Little did I know at the time that this giant of a man would one day become a giant in the world of angling and angling writers, oh to have had his drive and energy! These were ground-breaking times in Kentish fishing, and I was there to witness it all, aged just 18 and new to the exciting world of carp fishing. All 60 years ago now, where has the time gone? I never concentrated on my fishing, preferring a more varied life, "been there, done that" has been my philosophy, travelling the world, Reservoir trout fishing, garden building and following sports, but in those keen coarse fishing days of the 1960s I bumped into them all, and it is these ground-breaking anglers, far more accomplished than I, that I write about each month, they all had great stories to tell.



**Trevor with a brace of double figure Browns**



**A huge Marlin from the Bahamas**





Ronald Davis - 17lbs Common - Hawkurst Fish Farm



Ryan Lamont - 'Lennie' @ 29lbs 12ozs - RKB Leisure



Harry - 2nd Carp - Mousehole Lakes



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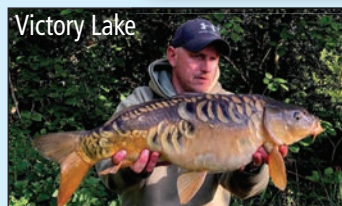
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Victory Lake



Berry Lake



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# Medway Man

## Bob Morris

**B**eing an all-round sort of angler, I often try to justify belonging to many different clubs (about a dozen currently) on the basis that I need to have a variety of venues at my disposal - even if I only get around to fishing less than ten percent of the waters available. Despite this I have rather reluctantly dropped a few of these, particularly some that involve a long drive as it is very unlikely that I am ever going to get to visit them.

***Some I know that I could rejoin at any time, but others are more difficult to get into and I tend to hang on to these for this reason.***

A few years back I was in the habit of fishing rivers like the Severn, Wye, Ouse, and Kennet etc on a regular basis during autumn and winter months but hardly ever go these days for a variety of reasons. I still manage the odd trip to these places but normally stick to the more accessible areas and day ticket venues when I do. My brother-in-law Martin has recently moved to the Shrewsbury area and is within striking distance of the River Severn and so I am very much looking forward to paying him a visit soon and having a session or two up there. The Bewdley to Bridgenorth section of the upper river was one of our favourite winter venues a few years back but I don't recall ever fishing any further upstream despite having relatives living there at the time.



***Club waters offer some great mixed fishing***



***Although Mr Carp might pay a visit***

The barbel fishing was quite spectacular, at this stage, and I can recall many sessions in the company of my pals Clive and Peter where we were all experiencing more action than we had ever had before on the barbel front. No Monsters but plenty of fish in the five-to-nine-pound range kept us well occupied on many occasions. Following on from this we switched our attentions to the lower sections of the river, Worcester area, in search of bigger fish and did well over several years, taking many double-figure fish up to fourteen pound plus. The social aspect of these trips was almost as important as the fishing, and I recall many days when starting much before lunchtime was difficult - courtesy of the previous night's festivities. I just could not afford to regularly do the sort of two/three-day trips now - as the costs of staying overnight at a pub or even a B & B have escalated beyond my budget, but I look back on these times with great affection and really value the chances that I do occasionally get to replicate these old adventures.

On the fishing front currently, I have been a bit restricted due to our house renovation work but have managed to keep at it on the tench trail and have been getting one or two along with the odd intervention from carp of various sizes. Time restrictions have meant that I have neglected the Medway in recent weeks but as things are starting to get back to some semblance of normality now, I am looking forward to getting back at it before the pike fishing starts again very soon. Talking of which, I really can't believe that I will be getting out the Pike rods again in a few weeks' time. This whole spring and summer period seems to have passed so quickly with the disruption of the building work and moving in /out and keeping tabs on it all.





Bee cuts circular pieces to seal entrance to chamber



Leaf-Cutter Bee


It certainly 'does your head in' as a friend of mine used to say. Everything is up and running again now and I apologise to anyone who has had trouble getting hold of me during the last few months. Phone and internet connections are finally working, and I am starting to get sorted out with the workshop again. I have heard it said that moving house is one of the most stressful things that we ever do and I can add to that and confirm that moving out and then back in several months later is just as bad, if not worse – in some ways.

As usual I have been clocking the wildlife during recent trips and enjoying my sightings of various species both common and not so. The lack of certain species of insect is something of great concern to me, as I believe it is a contributory factor behind the lack of Swallows, Martins Swifts etc in our area (and generally) in recent years. Grasshoppers seem to be largely extinct in many areas now and I can only imagine that this is down to intensive farming and pesticide use. Insect populations do fluctuate naturally on a yearly basis, but the overall lack of insects is something that I believe should be of urgent national / international concern. It is the season of dragonflies, and it has been a joy to see so many and of varying types recently. On the other side of the coin is our local population of leaf-cutter bees. These fascinating creatures annually populate our bee house in the garden. They cut circular leaf doors to seal their grubs into the chambers where they grow over winter and immerge the following year. I have spent much time watching this activity (pictured) but unfortunately, they are conspicuous by their absence this summer! Another insect not around in our garden this summer is the usually numerous Gatekeeper butterfly. These can normally be spotted basking on stumps and posts during mid-summer. I have seen them in other areas while out fishing but it is the first year that they have been absent in our garden.


It is great to see that the whole issue of the environment and its welfare is being taken far more seriously and steps are finally being taken to take the polluters and abusers to task but I believe we have a long way to go if we are to halt and hopefully even eventually reverse this tragic downturn in wildlife populations and diversity.


Best Fishes & Observations, Bob Morris

**Footnote: "I am just about to order another batch of books for the Autumn/winter period, so if anyone is after them could they please let me know now to allow me to adjust my order accordingly". B.M.**

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A large, dark-colored fish, likely a catfish, is lying on its side on a blue tarp that is spread out on a body of water. The fish's body is covered in prominent, light-colored, horizontal ridges or scales. Its head is towards the right, and its tail is towards the left. The background shows a calm body of water reflecting the warm, golden light of a sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a long, shimmering reflection on the water's surface. The sky is a mix of orange and yellow, and the silhouettes of trees are visible in the distance. The overall scene is peaceful and serene.

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

Photo Credit,  
William Benningfield