OCTOBER 2024

FRESHWATER & STATE OF THE STATE



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www.sandwichlakes.co.uk

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Carp to 49lb+



ORCHARD PLACE FARM FISHING

13 FISHING LAKES in the KENT COUNTRYSIDE Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6NY

01892 838576 or 07860 608218 Catfish to 112lb+

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(additional charge

for 3rd rod)

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FOOD IS AVAILABLE ON SITE FROM MID-MARCH TO OCTOBER

www.orchardplacefarmfishing.co.uk

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



NEW TO ORCHARD PLACE FARM! HORSMONDEN FISHING LAKES



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

Hello and welcome to the October edition of the Freshwater Informer



I'm pleased to report that this month I finally got to enjoy my own 'opening day' of the 2024 river season. OK, it might have been three months late. It might have been a couple of hours, rather than a day, and it might have only been a stream, instead of a river proper. But I got out there. Ticked that box, scratched that itch, and even caught a few fish! Most of all, it was a chance to relax, reset, and decompress, away from the relentless pursuit of daily life. Where days,



weeks, and even months become a blur in the fast paced world of modern living. There is something very special about taking the time to step away, if only for a moment, to appreciate the little things. A sunrise, or sunset. Mist rolling through a valley, as



deer venture out to graze in the fading evening light. A horizon that extends far beyond any smartphone screen that we've all become so accustomed to seeing the world through. With summer drawing to a close, there is no better time to put down your technology and get out there and do it for real. Autumn is probably my favourite time of year. The air is cooler, the colours are richer, and best of all the fish are feeding hard in preparation for the winter ahead. I would encourage everyone to get out there and make the most of it.

HAVE A GREAT MONTH, THE FWI TEAM.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER publication CONTENT DEADLINE 18th November **JANUARY 2025 publication** CONTENT DEADLINE 16th December The Freshwater Informer email: thefreshwaterinformer@gmail.com

COPY DEADLINE for NOVEMBER 2024 MONDAY 21st October 2024 at 5pm

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

Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

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

Snipe Lake although Snipe Lake has a bit of a reputation for being a hard nut to crack there have been some cracking fish banked since



Jamayne Cassar & Kayden - low double - Majors

the last report with Commons banked to just over 30lbs, Fully Scaled Mirrors to 17lbs and Mirrors to 28lbs 11ozs.

Westlake again has been great fishing with a lot of anglers banking multiple catches. We have seen catfish banked from low doubles to quite a few 40's, 50's and up to 62lbs 4ozs.

Jeff's Lake has been the main lake for families before the school holidays finished and it was back to normal in most households. The majority of these anglers banked fish, mostly silvers on their float rods but the majority of the bigger fish were banked by anglers using the method feeder tactic. Bream to 6lbs, F1's to 4lbs and Carp to 8lbs.

Daughter's Lake hasn't been as busy as usual but the anglers that ventured on there banked Fully Scaled Mirrors to 17lbs, Commons to 16lbs 8ozs, Mirrors to 17lbs 15ozs and Grass Carp to 30lbs 2ozs.

Eden Pond has seen the Tench anglers having a go before the weather turns against them and the water gets a little colder. We have seen Tench banked to 5lbs, Bream to 4lbs 8ozs and Carp to 7lbs.

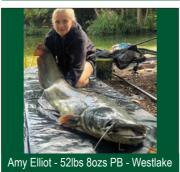
Maze Lake has fished quite tricky since the last report although we have had anglers banking numerous fish out but the standard match size as you would expect with Maze Lake.

Majors Lake has continued to produce some nice fish but not in the numbers we have seen lately but a nice variety of species have been banked. Ghost Commons to 13lbs 14ozs, Ghost Mirrors to just under 15lbs, Bream to 6lbs, Commons to 14lbs 8ozs and Mirrors







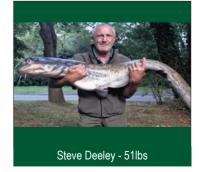












Lee Notridge - 25lbs 7ozs PB/1st Grassie - Daughters



THE REAL PROPERTY

Sam Howland - 27lbs 4ozs - Snipe









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

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1 hut available for hire



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

LAKE RULES

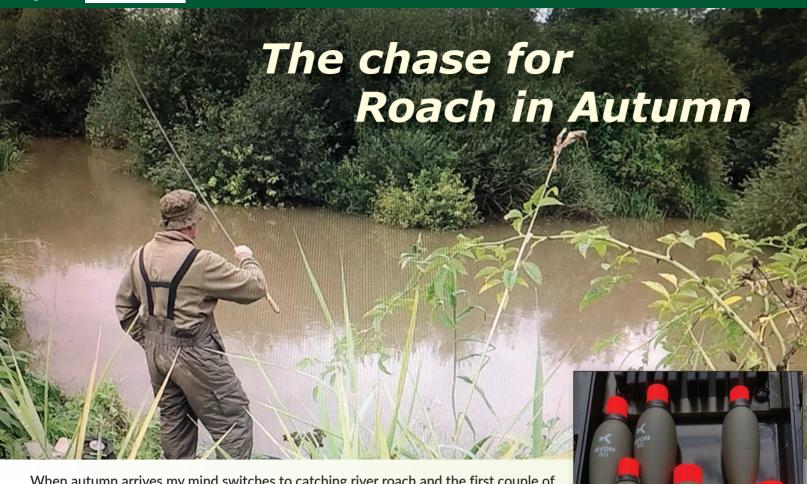
- 1. A TICKET MUST BE PURCHASED BEFORE FISHING
- 2. ALL NETS, UNHOOKING MATS AND WEIGH SLINGS MUST BE DRY BEFORE DIPPING IN THE DISINFECTANT BATHS
- 3. NO NUTS OR PARTICLE
- 4. BOILIE AND PELLET ONLY FOR SPECIMEN AND BACK LAKE ALL BAIT WILL BE INSPECTED
- 5. ALL FISH MUST BE RETURNED TO THE WATER AS 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
- 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





When autumn arrives my mind switches to catching river roach and the first couple of weeks in September I have been doing just that and using one of my favourite methods, the stickfloat. The first session on a stretch of the Upper Medway the swim I fished was approx 13ft deep and with lack of rain hardly any flow at all. It was going to be a challenge as the roach in previous visits have responded when the river was flowing nice and steady. However I am up for a challenge with a few tricks up my sleeve to try and tempt a bite or two. It was overcast which was perfect and as usual I was up early and making my way through three fields and five gates on what is roughly a mile and a bit walk to the swim. With just birds singing to keep me company interrupted by a plane passing over I set up my tackle for the day which was my trusty 13ft Drennan Floatmaster rod (which can be used at 15ft) a Daiwa fixed spool reel from my match days spooled with 4lbs line and placed on the line was a 4G Korum Speci stickfloat which shotting wise took 5AAA plus 2 No 4s and a No 8 dropper shot 4 inches from a Kamasan size 16 micro barb fine gauge hook. With it being September Festivals month and Internationals going ahead trying to buy some casters and pinkies



A selection of floats to cover conditions

from my maggot supplier was like gold dust so I opted for plain white maggots and a few reds along with hemp for feed plus a bag of Sonubaits Black Roach.



A nice hand-sized roach

At the start of the session I introduced four small balls of groundbait laced with a few grains of cooked hemp and white maggots and I was going to top up the swim according to how the bites developed and catching rate. On a little and often basis I was also going to ping out with a catty maggots down the middle of the swim and over to the far side where there some flow albeit very little. My first cast produced a roach of about six ounces and I thought this is a good start and that fish was followed by a perch, chublet, gudgeon, bleak and a dace. It was going to be a mixed day and I was going to try and find a way of getting the roach to line up as that was my main reason for being by the water's edge. With continuous feed I was catching the odd roach of all sizes but nothing big to get too excited about but they were making me think as I was catching roach all

over the place but in single amounts. Catch one then they would disappear to another part of the swim, catch another one and then they would move off and so on. But whilst I was trying to locate the redfins I was bagging on gudgeon that seemed to be everywhere, some of them were proper size and reminded me of my days as a young match man bagging up on the river lea using a short whip to hand, they were great matches back then where 5 to 10lbs of gudgeon could be caught during a 5 hour match.

Reverse Hooking made all the difference

To tempt the odd roach I started to reverse hook the maggots and by that I mean hook them through the point of the body rather than the fat end where their eyes are. It worked a real



Gudgeon are always welcome

treat and fished that way for the rest of the session but the roach were still on the move and would settle down over my bait. It was an enjoyable session and I reckon I had sixty gudgeon, eight perch, a dozen chublets and dace, a few bleak plus twelve to fifteen roach with the biggest going a modest seven ounces. As I packed up my tackle and filming gear I thought I would wait a few weeks before a return in the hope of some rain putting some much needed flow in this particular swim and as if by magic a few days later the heavens opened up and the rain came down so hard and quick it put a good two and a half feet on the rising level, so I decided to change my plans again and get back on the same swim and film the difference between six days. After another early start and long walk I arrived at the swim just before 6am and saw a big change to the conditions. The river had rose and the flow was moving around in all different directions which concerned me as I could not see a flow run through from left to right without it boiling around all over the place. Tackle was the same except that I decided to fish the Floatmaster at 15 ft instead as I knew it was going to give me better control over the 4g Stickfloat. Baits were the same as the previous session as again casters were impossible to get hold of which was very frustrating. Anyway it is what it is and I had to get on with especially as I was more confident that the roach would like the conditions much better as not only was there more flow to work the float with but there was more colour and roach do like some colour in the river.

Where Have They Gone

Ninety minutes later I was bite less and scratching my head, I had done six hook links due to the flow dragging the float towards me and finding some tree branches on the bottom. I kept calm and just watched the river for five minutes as I ate an apple plotting my next move. Shall I go home? No, shall I move swim? No, shall I explore the far bank gentle flow near that over hanging tree? Yes. I moved the float down to shallow up to five feet from fourteen feet as I knew for a previous session three years back that part of the swim was much shallower. I had to adjust the float a few times to just touch and drag bottom in the gentle flow.

On my second run through on reversed white maggots on a size 14s hook the float twitched and slightly lifted, I struck as I was into a small fish which turned to be a very small roach, bingo I thought, signs of life. It was as if someone had flicked the switch as I had a steady run of five roach up to eight inches before that run was interrupted by a chublet. It turned out to be a very enjoyable rest of the session with at least forty roach, a few chublets, big bleak, one perch and one gudgeon. What a difference some rain makes and both videos of those two sessions can be seen on my Fishing Tail Films channel.

I am sure the roach fishing for me will improve as the weather starts to cool and more rain comes our way flushing through the rivers hopefully in a nice gentle way and not the dreaded floods of the last two seasons.



I seem to research more these days and I have found some new Perch venues that I am looking forward to trying out, sadly they are two hour plus journeys but I have found a decent Perch water much nearer so fingers crossed I get to smash my PB which is long overdue to be beaten.

All will be revealed in the coming weeks.

Greenacres Farm Fishery Biddenden, Kent

Everyone please read our rules online before booking up and any enquiries don't hesitate to ring up and ask or drop us a text look forward to seeing you on the bank! Don't forget to dip your nets, slings and unhooking mats/cradles or you will be asked to leave. CCTV IS IN OPERATION!

Speci 1 This lake has come alive and has been rewarding people with some lovely fish which have all fallen to lightly baited areas fishing a solid pva bag over the top. Best baits that have been working is DNA and Sticky Baits krill. Perch fishing on here has been rewarding to anglers that are willing to fish for them with some just shy of 3lbs. These fish have all been caught on float fishing tactics by using worm or maggot on the hook and constantly sprinkling maggots over the top on every cast with a catapult to keep the rudd and roach in the swim that then attracts the big perch.

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

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

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

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

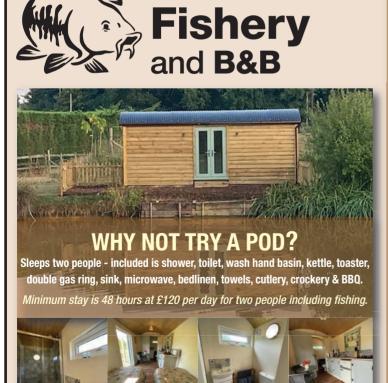




Shirkoak









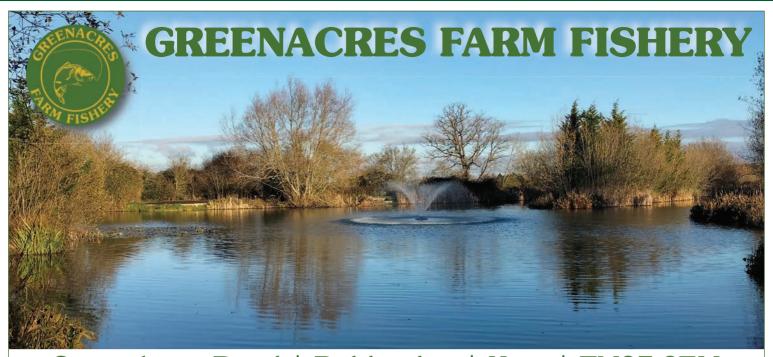
Shirkoak Fishery, Bethersden Road, Woodchurch, Ashford TN26 3PZ

Follow us on Facebook 'Shirkoak Fishery' for regular updates

www.shirkoakfarm.com

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

Pre-hookings only



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

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

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



Fishery Reports

Gabriels Fishery Edenbridge, Kent

Admiral Lake after the hot summer with the weather being up and down the lake has slowed down a little. The big boys and girls not liking the sharp storms we have been having. Hopefully as we stabilize into autumn, the fish will want to feed before the winter hits. Some lovely specimens were banked in September regardless, including our old two tone friend. The newer extension of the lake being the most popular catching spot in the recent weeks.

Oak Lake doing so well this year with lots of catches. Notably some good size grass carp! Day time as well as night fishing yielding great results.

Swallow Lake also little quiet compared to the summer month but still fishing well. Swallow is a brilliant lake for children, beginners or the fisherman wanting the most peace and nature enjoyment.

Silver Lake been busy with plenty of catches of Bream, Perch, Tench and Carp.

Hare Lake after the quiet summer, Hare has woken up, with the Pike season nearly here the predators are ready and waiting. Hare has been fishing well for carp also, all fish looking great. Just a reminder to everyone, we only allow barbless hooks, although lures and spinners are now obviously allowed on Hare Lake!

River Eden amazing season on the river with healthy sizable fish. Many fisherman reporting huge Chub, Perch and Roach.

Our Specimen Lake (Admiral) can now be booked on line as well as at the fishery, please read terms and conditions. Our well stocked tackle and bait shop is open 7am-7pm through the Summer months. Please use updated dip tanks for your equipment and observe our rules and regs.



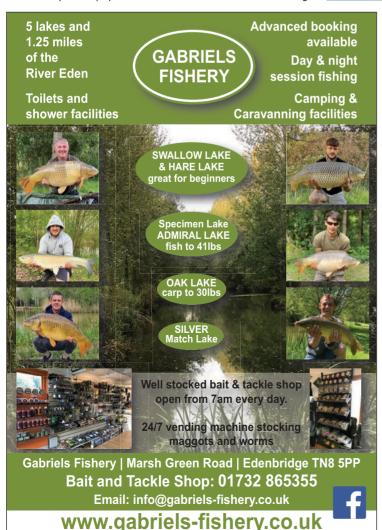




Hare Lake











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At Pittlands Lakes we provide Day and Night Tickets to ALL

The onsite Bar and Restaurant is open during the season for a variety of hot and cold refreshments including breakfast and lunches, all at reasonable prices. Winter and Summer times vary please check with us.

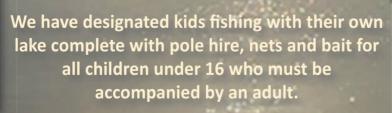
CARAVAN CLUB SITE THAT OFFERS MEMBERS CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME FACILITIES

Even if you're not fishing please come and sample our Sunday roasts and enjoy the beautiful lakeside views



Our toilets are brick-built and open throughout the season, including disabled toilet and shower room.

Night fishing is very popular and is available every night of the week, with just 24hrs notice to secure a place, please call 07716 065900.



There are 3 other lakes for the more experienced angler with Catfish to 100lbs, Carp to 32lbs+, Bream, Roach, Tench, Crucian and Perch.







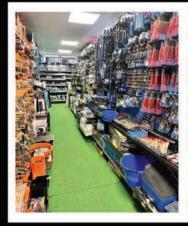




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FRESHWATER

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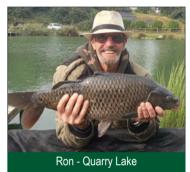


Fishery Reports











2025 Match Lake bookings

We are now taking 2025 bookings for exclusive hire of our newly revamped 20 peg match lake. It is very well stocked with carp from just ounces to over 12lb!

Exclusive hire: £175 or £10 per match angler (for 10+ anglers)







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Claygate Lakes Claygate, Marden, Kent

Lake Sophie Sitting just over the half way mark has been working well for both the pole and float guys. Tench have been coming out to a couple of baits; prawn, meat or corn. With perch showing that maggots and worms are worth a try.

Lake Eva Mid afternoon is proving to be a good time for carp being caught off the top with bread or dog biscuits working well.

Lake Amy Small baits seem to be working well for some of the





guys with PVA bags of pellets that are soaked in goo. **Monday Ray** has been back at it with a new PB common which went over 35lbs! **John Butcher** popped in for a 24hr session. He decided to treat himself to a 'Claygate Special Burger' before setting up and boy was the magic in the name. John ended his session with having five carp between 15lbs and 30lbs which is his new common carp record, all off his left hand rod! **Michael** also went away smiling after a nice 24lber, well done! We of course had **Matthew Good** popping in for a quick session after his holiday so was great to see. **Connor Davis** had a smile on his face, on his birthday weekend!

WINTER TICKETS Now on sale running from 1st Nov 2024 to 31st March 2025 (Giving you an extra 4 weeks to most other winter tickets!) Cost as follows: **2 rods £200 / 3 rods £230** And remember, this covers you for all lakes so feel free to go spinning on Amy for the perch or try Eva for perch and pike. For the latest catch reports follow Dave Claygate on Facebook. **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 (The 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.

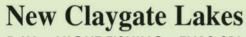
Sat & Sun hot & cold food served. WC's & Showers: Separate men & women's open all week.











DAY & NIGHT FISHING - TN12 9PL

For all match and pleasure bookings and enquiries please ring Dave **07770 513448**NIGHT FISHING ON ALL LAKES





LAKE AMY - Carp to over 40lbs





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





Chub 5lb+ Barbel 4lb+ Perch 3lb+ Bream 11lb+ Roach 2lb+
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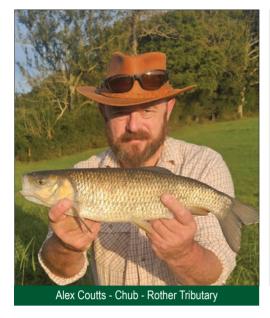






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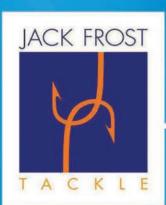












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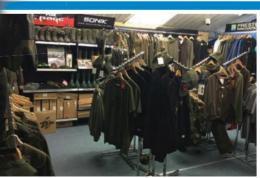
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Diary of a Match Angler

With changeable conditions and differ challenges, this month proved to be ve

MATCH DAY 1

My first match of the month was at Lucks Lakes fishing on the carp lake. From fishing the lake in the past I knew it was going to be tricky. I drew peg 10 which was located one peg away from the back left hand corner. It looked good as I had reeds either side. As usual when i was setting up I could see a lot of fish cruising under the surface, as soon as the match starts they disappeared, typical!

Pellet Waggler Rig 12ft drennan acolyte rod paired with a daiwa ninja reel spooled with 8lb supplex. I start by sliding two drennan float stops up the line, then I put a guru snap link and swivel on the line and put two more float stops below. The reason I use a snap link swivel is to allow me to swap and change floats for example if the wind picks up I might need to go heavier and being able to change is vital as match fishing is all about being fast and effective. I then tied on a drennan quick snap swivel as again allow me to change hook lengths with ease and again comes down to being quick and getting back out. This was then down to a 0.20 banded hook length with a size 12 QM1.

Plumbing up I plumbed up a line just in front of the reeds on the left hand side which was just over 2ft deep. Trying to plumb up my short line was a bit of a pain as the bottom wasn't flat so I spent a lot of time finding where the best place to fish was. On my short line I was fishing in around 3 and a half foot of water maybe just over. My long line fishing at 13m was flat and around 5 and a half foot of water perfect.

How it went I started by potting in a cup full of Dynamite swim stim F1 sweet groundbait on the edge line, then fed self prepared hemp and Dynamite swim stim F1 sweet micros on the short and long line. I started on paste fishing over the

ground bait in the edge and floats went straight away. It was only a small carp around a pound, but it was a start. After that I could not get another bite, not even a movement of the float. I picked up my pellet waggler and had a few chucks around with a 8mm hard pellet but didn't have any success. I re-fed the edge with another cupful and when out on the long line and surprisingly the float didn't move. I had one method left to try and that was the feeder, as I had drawn next to a corner peg, it didn't leave me much room to chuck out so I was probably casting around the 18m mark with micros around the feeder and a Dynamite wowser wafter as hook bait. Each cast I was double loading the feeder what I mean by this is placing my hook bait first in the mould, then covering with micros, squeeze them on the feeder then load the mould again and squeeze them on top so that the top layer will break down immediately, meaning there is bait on the bottom pretty much straight away while the feeder is breaking down. After a good few chucks and leaving it in for 5 minutes



each chuck the tip went around with a lovely looking ghost carp. When I'm feeder fishing on commercials I like to time my casts to see when the bites are coming. For example if I get a take at 2:45 minutes then the next cast I will leave in for 3 minutes. I started to notice that I was getting more frequent indications, and some quicker bites up until 12pm when it went completely dead to the point where I couldn't get a liner. I was switching and switching tactics and before I knew it, it was half past one. I decided to stay on the feeder and after a couple of chucks the tip went again with another ghost carp. For the last hour I decided to fish ground bait on the feeder, and I'm glad I did as the first chuck it went around in



under a minute. It then slowed a bit, however I was still getting frequent liners. Ten minutes from the end I had the most savage take I've ever had on the feeder as this carp tried to take not only my hook bait but my rod too. It put up a great fight bit I eventually got it in the net. Just what you want at the end of the match. With that last fish netted the final whistle went and I was feeling confident. I managed to put a weight of 42lbs 15ozs on the scales, topping my section and placing 2nd overall. A tricky day but very rewarding, especially as 23 anglers fished.

ent venues presenting different ery much a month of two halves...

Freddy Joe Beaney

MATCH DAY 2 My next match was at Orchard Place Farm, fishing on Lake 10. We had another great turn out of 24 anglers. Unfortunately it was a very tricky day in places, with me being in one of those places. I drew peg 21 which was bang in the middle of the back bank. Only fishing the lake once before I didn't really know what to expect and where to be. When I got to the peg I wasn't feeling too confident as I didn't really have an edge line. I had one angler one side, and another the other side of me. I set up 5 rigs one for fishing soft pellets, hard pellets, paste, shallow, edge, and I also set up the feeder.

Edge Rig 4x14 chianti style float ties to 0.20 supplex with a bulk of 7 no.9's, down to a 0.16 hook length with a super LWG in a size 14.

Plumbing up rigs. The edge rig was around a foot deep but again I wasn't feeling confident on this line. I began starting the match feeding Dynamite swim stim ground bait and micros loose down the edge, then I started by fishing a top kit and three, feeding micros through a pot with a single maggot. While I was fishing on this line I was pinging over 4mm hard pellet on my 13m line in hope I could get a few fish up in the water and if I could, I would go over with the hard pellet rig and a 6mm on the hook. I managed two quick skimmers and a few roach then it was like someone had flicked a switch and I couldn't get another bite. I swapped to my shallow rig and hoped I could nick one, but there was no response. I noticed next door had one on paste, so I quickly shipped in and changed over. I didn't feel confident that this was the right approach, however I had to try it as nothing else was working. Unfortunately paste didn't work for me either. All day I was switching and changing and just nothing was happening. I also noticed the angler to my right had two fish on the feeder, however once again, it didn't work for me. I was just catching the odd little roach. With 10 minutes to go I was fishing maggot and loose feeding maggot and managed two ide of around 2 and a half pounds that boosted my weight. I ended the match with 6lbs 4ozs. A long way from first and not far from last. Once again time to work harder at the next match.

MATCH DAY 3 My last match this month was at Chart Hill Fishery and what a day it was. On arrival I went for a walk around the lake as they were putting the peg numbers in. Everyone was saying that peg 11, which was around the back of the lake, would be the flier as it had loads of room around and offered lots of options. But I wasn't feeling this peg and I ideally wanted either pegs 7,8,9,10 because it was a short chuck to the island and perfect for fishing the feeder. I was the third person to draw and was feeling confident as I picked out peg 10, which was right where I wanted to be. I knew I was going to be fishing the feeder most of the day as I had the end of the island to chuck to, however obviously I had to set the pole up just in case things didn't go to plan.

Feeder rig I was using a 9ft drennan acolyte commercial feeder rod paired to a daiwa ninja reel in a size 2500 spooled with 0.28 drennan supplex, the reason why it's so heavy is because of the constant casting and catching fish it lasts a lot longer. I was then using the ics system from the Preston innovations feeder ranger with a quick change bead in the end

of the feeder which allows you to swap and change hook lengths with ease, I was then using a 0.23 hook length with a guru bait spike as I was using wafters from the ringer range, match the hatch pellet colour, then finally I was loading the feeder with dynamite swim stim F1 sweet micros.

Plumbing up Lucky when I was plumbing up I found that around top kit and 3+ was all flat that made it quick and easy to plum and set up. The pellet line I set up to use for fishing short and long as well as the paste rig, I was fishing in around 4-5ft of water so a nice depth. The whistle went meaning all in, and the first thing I did was feed a 13m line with loose ground bait and a short line with micros, a few 6mm hard pellets and hemp. The reason I fed loose ground bait on my 13m line was because this is the line I was going to be fishing shallow, while planning on targeting the short line with paste. With the lines fed it was time to pick up the feeder and make the first cast, I was double loading the feeder with Dynamite swim stim F1 sweet micros and I didn't really get to many indications to begin with, so I left it for 3 minutes reeled In and the same thing happened, getting very few liners. Third chuck in and as I've seen the two lines meet from where I've sunk my line I felt the rod tip pull up tight 'fish on' wow. Next chuck the same thing happened, and then next and the next! Within the first 2.5hrs I had already filled up two of my keepnets, and was on my way to completing my third. The fish averaged around 2 and a half to three pound with the odd bigger, one being around 6lbs. I filled my third net and realised I was out of nets. Thankfully the angler in a neighbouring peg lent me two of his nets which was very kind of him, and a massive thank you to him. It didn't take long before I managed to fill one net and then with an hour to go I managed to fill the other net in around 30-45 minutes. This meant that it was time to pack up early as I had run out of nets! I was also feeling pretty knackered, so didn't mind too much!

I ended up filling 5 nets for a total weight of 208lb 3oz. This won my section and gave me 1st place overall in the match. It was also a new match weight PB for me, which hopefully isn't going to take to long to beat it, as long as I have enough nets!











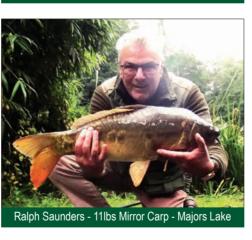




















ParkerBaits

Fish of the Month Prize Winner

This competition is open to all species. To be in with a chance of winning, send your catches to thefreshwaterinformer@gmail.com Winners will receive 3kgs pellets, with matching liquid and hookbaits, all supplied in a handy bait bucket, and are available in either their OG Fish, OG Fruit & Nut, **FRESHWATER** or Mini-Mix varieties.

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.

When All Your Birthdays Come At Once!

A Birthday trip to Mousehole Lakes resulted in not one, but two new Personal Bests for Martin Findlay.



Fishing a 96hr session on the popular Kent venue's Kestrel Lake, Martin took the slightly unusual approach of using an unknown bait that had been languishing in the bottom of his freezer for the past two years. Thankfully for him, a liberal coating of ParkerBaits magic dust rejuvenated their pulling power and just a few hours into his session, Martin found himself attached to a new PB in the shape of this 36lbs 8ozs Mirror Carp. To make it even more special, the capture came on the his actual birthday. As if that wasn't enough



reason to celebrate, Martin also managed to land a new PB common carp of 24lbs 6ozs to round off his trip and earn him a late birthday present of this month's bait package.



Jamie Haddikin - PB 86lbs Catfish - Darenth Complex



















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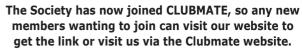
BAIT AVAILABILITY DEPENDENT ON TIDE AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society

Our stillwaters are continuing to fish well with multiple Carp captures coming from The Old Ballast Pit and Barden Lake. Individual fish to over 30lbs from the Pit and fish to over 40lbs from Barden Lake. The odd big Tench still showing and plenty of Bream. Haysden Lake has produced great mixed bags to over 40lbs in a recent match. The platforms are producing Bream, Tench and other silvers on the Pole and Bream to over 6lbs fishing further out on the feeder.

The New Lagoon is producing good mixed bags with Carp to over 8lbs and Tench to around 6lbs. There was also a 6lbs Eel caught last week.

The river has produced some good match weights of late with decent Bream, Roach and Perch making up the better bags. The odd Tench has also been caught.













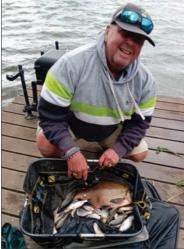
















MATCH RESULTS:

SAM DAVIS MEMORIAL East Lock and Hartlake (48 fished)

1stAndrew Goldthorpe24lbs 14ozs2ndBen Ramsden20lbs 12ozs3rdKevin Dyer13lbs 2ozs

KENT CHAMPIONSHIPS - HYTHE

Tonbridge match regular **Paul Reddy** continued his fine form of late by winning the individual Kent Championship title and helping Tonbridge win the overall team.

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Mobile:

07906 232225

5 secluded lakes set in 60 acres of woodland, containing Carp to 30lbs, Tench to 5lbs, Bream to 9lb plus Roach, Rudd and Chub

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For further details contact: Jason Tuckey on 07983 569220

e-mail: lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk

www.lintonangling.co.uk

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Grass Carp to 29lbs 6ozs.
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Jim's Journey

Claygate Lakes, near the village of Marden in the heart of Kent countryside, is a 3 lake fishing complex that caters for anglers of all disciplines. Lake Sophie is a canal style water, perfect for pole fishing and match tactics. At the other end of the spectrum is Lake Amy, which holds an impressive stock of specimen carp to over 40lbs, whilst, in terms of stock, Lake Eva sits between the two, offering great sport with the chance of that special fish.

A full list of their facilities can be seen in their advert on page 18.

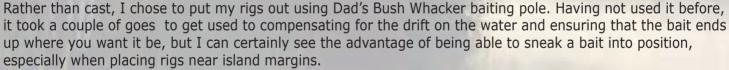
Having seen plenty of chunky carp reported to the FWI over the last few months it was Lake Amy that caught our eye, and a weekend session was planned.

On our journey over to the lakes we popped into Fishon Tackle Shop, at Paddock Wood, for a packet of hooks. Of course, it's never that simple, and 45mins later we left laden down with a bag of 'must have' goodies, including a new set of bite alarms for Dad!

It's always exciting visiting a new venue, and once parked, we were both keen to have a good look around before picking a swim and setting up. Lake Amy is in the middle of the complex, a large central island dominates the water, giving the lake a very intimate feel and giving the impression that you have the whole lake to yourself. The swims are well constructed and nicely spaced, allowing anglers to fish without intruding on each other. The outer channel is of a fairly consistent width for two thirds of the lake, opening out into a larger bay at the top end.

One thing that I have learnt in my journey so far, is that taking time to look for signs of fish and talking to other anglers can really give you an edge and up your chances of catching. Especially when you don't know the lake. So,

after a bit of time, I chose to fish the point swim which is on the left-hand bank of the lake and had a couple of good-looking areas, and after seeing a fish bow wave from the island bank I was quietly confident.



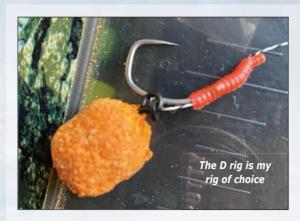
Rig wise, I was utilizing a D rig Aligner, baited with a Parker Baits match the hatch wafter bait. Dad is still 'old school' and prefers a basic hair rig, but the D rig has worked for me so far. One thing to remember is to test the



rig each time, to make sure the wafter is correctly balanced as I have noticed that not all hook baits are the same, even from the same pot. One might float more than another so it's really important to quickly check in a bucket or in the margins before casting out. With the rods out and my bivvy setup, I settled down and spent some time watching the water. There was definitely some activity over the right-hand spot, so I was feeling really confident that fish were in the area. Other than topping up with a bit of pellet and a hand full of OG Fish boilies, I was happy to leave everything as it was. As evening came around, we sat drinking tea and eating cheese burger, hoping for a bite alarm to sound. Especially Dad, who had spent more time fiddling with his new

alarms than actually fishing, and really needed to justify his new purchase!





With the light fading, we made our way to our respective bivvies for the night ahead. Just as I was dozing off, one of my bite alarms burst into life, as my left hand rod went into meltdown. I scrambled from my bed chair, grabbed the rod and heard the clutch start to tick as an angry carp set off down the lake.

This was my first time playing a fish in complete darkness and it took a minute to get my bearings. It's quite unnerving not knowing where the fish is in relation to any snags, especially when its your first fish from a new lake. Thankfully everything held firm and when I heard the fish wallowing in front of me I flicked on my head torch and bundled it into the waiting net. After making sure that

everything was secure, I went to wake up Dad to help with the weighing and pictures. Back in my swim we got everything ready before carefully lifting the fish onto the mat, peeling back the mesh to reveal a short, but deep bodied mirror carp of 19lbs 3ozs. Photos done, and the fish returned, we celebrated with a mug of tea, before getting our heads down for the night.

Up at first light, I decided to leave my rigs in position and just top up the spots with a few more pellets and boilies. This is one of Dad's favourite tactics. He reasons that the fresh bait will help draw fish into the swim, with the more washed out hookbaits appearing safer to the fish and more likely to be taken.

Of course, it was only as we settled down to enjoy our own breakfast that we were rudely interrupted by an angry common of 12lbs 8ozs. Tea and toast went flying in all directions. Unlike the first, this fish fell to the right hand rod, which was really encouraging as spots that look good from the bank don't always produce. With the fish returned and the remains of our breakfast finished, I redid both rods with the pole, then used a catapult to introduce a light scattering of bait between the spots. My thinking was that any fish could feed freely as they cruised along the island margin, hopefully letting their guard down when they reached one of the spots.

The plan seemed to work as just as we were discussing what to have for lunch, I had another take on my left hand rod. Unlike the previous fish, which had both screamed off, this take was very stop start. I grabbed the rod and tightened down and it was immediately clear that this carp was a very different animal. No splashing or rushing about, just a huge vortex before a steady, but unstoppable, run down the length of the lake. I called Dad, who reeled in my other rod, and cleared the decks, as we both knew this was something special. Slowly but surely I managed to work the fish back to the water in front of the swim, where we both got a really good look at it as it came past just under the surface. A huge dark mirror, and certainly a new PB. Then just as I felt that I was winning, the hook pulled and my line went slack. Gutted is an understatement, and without doubt the lowest point of my angling journey so far.

Dad quietly went back to his swim to fiddle with his new alarms and give me a few minutes to calm down and gather my thoughts. The fact that we had both got a really good look at the fish seemed to make it worse, although in some ways it made me feel even more determined and fired up to catch another and settle the score. I got both my spots freshened up with bait, and poled my rigs out again, hopeful of another chance before it was time to go home.

Just at last knockings, with most of our gear packed away, the left hand rod signalled another take. Clearly another good fish I was extra careful to leave nothing to chance. Once again, Dad reeled in my other rod to give

me as much space as possible to play this fish safely to the net. I made sure to take my time, and we both let out a sigh of relief when a good sized common finally rolled over the net cord.

Unlike the mirror I had landed in the night, this fish was really long and well proportioned. A beautiful chestnut colour that almost glowed in the evening light. At 23lbs 10ozs it was a fantastic sight and a great way to finish our session. After doing the pictures, we made sure to treat the hook hold with carp care, before watching the fish drift back to its watery home.

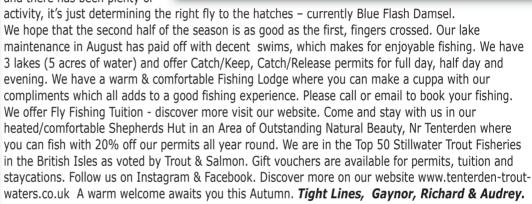
On the way home, we both agreed that we would definitely return to Claygate. Me, to hopefully get another chance at the huge mirror I lost, and Dad to see if his new alarms will ever signal a take!



TROUT INFORMER

All 3 Lakes will have been re-stocked with Rainbows and Blues by the time you are reading this in October and it's good to report that some quality, hard fighting Rainbows have given our Anglers some real sport in September. Temperatures are dropping and that's great for Trout fishing

because Trout like the cold and there has been plenty of





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Brick Farm Lakes Herstmonceux, East Sussex

As we come out the other side of a long, hot summer, we are pleased to report that the fishing is most definitely on the up. We have spent the Summer mowing and tidying as much as we can, and a few long hard days of weed clearance.

As you'd expect for this time of year, dries, Daddies and Buzzers are proving fruitful, and of course you can't really go wrong with a Blue Flash Damsel! The majority of fish are being caught in the top foot of water and we are now resuming our normal weekly stockings as we head into Autumn and the water cools down.





Tenterden Trout Waters Tenterden, Kent

Recently, Chad was pleased to return to the Lodge with a nice 6lbs 3ozs rainbow from Brick Lake – he said it fought well and the tail was in pristine condition. James has had a great day too when he caught his first brownie-a nice 3lbs 8ozs fish caught from Brick Lake on a CDC caddis.

We are beginning to think about our Annual festive competition – held between Christmas and new year – keep an eye on our website and social media pages for more details – its always a very fun event with a good turnout, plenty of friendly competition and plenty of good food!



GUIDED LURE & FLY FISHING DAYS WITH ANDY LUSH

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

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

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

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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 with your contact phone number and Andy will call you back and discuss







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Earlier this year while fishing Hartley Lands Reservoir [TN17 3PS], Melvyn Oakley unleashed the beast, the 'pellet waggler'. It's a method I'd heard about but not seen in action. On our arrival we could see numbers of carp, some basking others drifting around just under the surface. I was keen to fish 'on the deck' for bream, but Melvyn decided to tackle up the 'pellet waggler' and was immediately into fish. The rest of us, including me, struggled to get a bite! We were all fishing too deep, beneath the carp and bream.

Pellet waggler

For those of you, who are not into match fishing, I'll explain what the pellet waggler is. In layman's terms, you're fishing your bait very close to the surface, well away from the bottom. I know this is a bit scary when everything you've done previously is based around presenting your bait on or just off the bottom, with the exception of possibly surface fishing for carp or chub.

After catching half a dozen carp, Melvyn decided to switch tactics and fish 'down the edge' on the pole. He had been feeding an area just alongside his swim for some time. The possibility of a big fish

was evident as the reeds were moving and the water was clouding up as carp got their 'nose bags on'.



high insight I should have just increased the depth I was fishing, doh!

well on heavily stocked commercial waters.

After this I wanted to learn more about pellet waggler fishing. So I did what everyone does and watched some YouTube tutorials. To my surprise the match anglers I watched were using much longer hook lengths than Melvyn had shown me. Once their hook bait had settled at full depth they would quickly wind in, feed more pellets and re-cast just past the baited area. Bites were expected immediately the float splashed down or shortly afterwards. Sometimes they would twitch the rod and wind in a little to bring the waggler into the baited area. Once it had settled to full depth they would wind in and recast. It's a busy method that works especially

I quickly asked if I could use his pellet waggler rod. I was eager to try the method. I quickly caught a couple of fish, but I was missing something? Confidence! As the wind strengthened, it pushed the pellet waggler back towards me, and I found it difficult to keep up with the float's drift. Keeping the line tight is important, it helps create a bolt effect when the carp takes the pellet, too much slack line and the chances are missed! Also with the wind freshening, the carp dropped down a little, well that's my excuse for not catching any more. With



However, the way I was shown was to feed, cast and then let the bait hang directly under the float, occasionally pinging a couple more pellets directly at the float. It's important not to overfeed as this will see the carp dropping down to the bottom where the sinking pellets eventually end up. Suspending the bait beneath the float has major benefits in my mind, you're not so busy recasting which gives the carp more time to be drawn to your bait. It's then a matter of finding the exact depth they are prepared to feed at. That is the difficult bit, as I've found the fish can be very unpredictable, changing their depth frequently!

A lightbulb moment

As I mentioned in last month's article, I've not had the most successful surface fishing season this summer. So my attention had wandered somewhat. I'd tried fishing for different species. I've even checked out a few waters as potential fly fishing venues for next season. While



looking at these waters, I found the same scenario repeating itself, carp cruising sub-surface avoiding surface baits. Although I was looking at these waters for fly fishing, it occurred to me that I could fish them more easily with a float rod and reel!

And so the germ of an idea started to take shape in my mind. Several waters that contained specimen carp, that I'd dismissed in the past could be worth re-visiting with the pellet waggler.

Feeding surface baits on these waters had been more effective at attracting ducks and geese than carp. Now I had a method that would not attract the waterfowl, but hopefully would attract the carp? This was shaping up to be my next 'new thing' to do, something to get the adrenaline pumping again and renew my flagging appetite.

The beginning of a new journey

Although the idea was there, it wasn't until I fished with Melvyn again that I really got my teeth into the pellet waggler method. We were fishing a small farm pond that neither of us had fished before. On my recce to this water, I'd found most of the carp on the surface well away from the busy swims by the car park. The fish were gathered under some overhanging trees, on the opposite bank.

Our choice of swims was easy, close to the overgrown bank away from the other anglers. I was convinced the fish were backing off from the busy swims. A light breeze was in our faces, not enough to make the fishing difficult, but it felt several degrees cooler, especially as we were in the shade! The anglers opposite us were enjoying the early morning sun, but by the afternoon they were cooking nicely.

First cast, without even feeding and Melvyn's into a carp! After a protracted battle it became obvious it was foul hooked. Next cast, he's in



again but it came adrift half way in, we both suspected it was also foul hooked? Third fish and yet another, foul hooked fish! I suggested he was fishing too deep? Depth adjusted shallower, and the next half a dozen carp were all properly hooked in the mouth. It's worth mentioning that no one else was catching. I quickly followed suit and tackled up a pellet waggler rod. I started feeding small numbers of 8mm pellets, as close as I could to my float. I caught a couple of fish, but my action really picked up when Melvyn switched to fishing down the edge on the pole. I now had the undivided attention of the roaming fish that appeared every time I introduced more pellets.

Already I was starting to notice a pattern. If I fed too many pellets, or fed too often, the pellets sank to the bottom and the carp to feed on them there, because I could see them 'fizzing'. However, if I reined back on my feed a little, the carp would lift off the bottom seeking the source, higher in the water. My float would then disappear, the line pulled tight and the rod tip was dragged around, 'fish on'!

Practice makes perfect

Well I'm far from perfect, but I am practising a lot! I think I understand the method a lot better now. One thing I've noticed is the carp will often change their feeding depth. It can vary so much with only slight changes in conditions. The wind increasing is enough to see the surface activity stop completely, yet drop down a few inches and you're back in the game. Similarly, bright cloudless days can be painfully slow, if a little cloud cover rolls in, the light levels soften and "up they come". I'm sure my fly fishing has made me far more aware of this than if I hadn't spent so much time chasing trout! My recent trips have been to several different waters, where I thought the 'pellet waggler' could work. Waters that contain sufficient fish for competitive feeding to take place, you learn so much quicker when catching fish! I've also started thinking about other venues that contain specimen fish.

To be continued...

quicker when catching fish! I've also started thinking about other venues that contain specimen fish that might just be susceptible to this tactic?

Tight lines, Andy Lush

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Red Letter Day down on the river

While most young anglers tend to focus on stillwaters, William Stevens proved that there is some great sport to be had on the regions rivers. Fishing a stretch of the River Ouse, nr Lewes, William switched between float and legering tactics to land a fantastic variety of species including, perch, pike, roach, bream and chub, as well as landing three carp topped off by this impressive common of

19lbs 2ozs. Truly a red letter session that makes him a worthy winner of this months Sussex Bait Developments bait package.





Darcie makes it look easy

A trip to Shirkoak Fishery saw 6yr old Darcie Marsh set a new Personal Best perch in the form of this 2lbs 8ozs beauty. What makes the capture even more impressive

is that many anglers will spend more than 6 years in search of a two pound perch - let alone catch one at 6yrs old! No doubt the information contained in Carl Smith's 'The Simple Fishing Guidebook' will help Darcie go on to even greater achievements.



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October update

by instructor Warren White

My main aim as an angling coach, is to try and get as many young people as possible into fishing, as the youngsters of today are the future of angling. I am in the rare situation that I work at a school who have fishing on the curriculum and have fishing lessons every day of the week and these students go onto do an angling qualification at school if that's their option. At the school I work at, and I am sure would be the same at any school given the opportunity, our courses are always oversubscribed.



Fishing sessions start in the classroom

Naturally, any student that loves fishing, turns up to the session eager to get on with the fishing. But the way we run the course, is that the reward for getting their paperwork completed, is to then go fishing. This normally sees the students getting the work completed double sharp as they can't wait to get fishing.

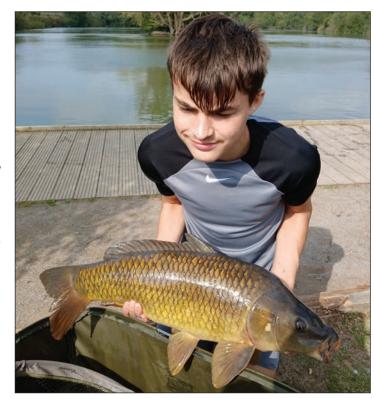
After returning to school after the summer break, we have had two sessions that have both been held at our main venue Grove farm, this is a still water with quality carp and some good silver fish. At this time of the year the students must work out whether to fish on the bottom or top. Throughout the summer months, the way to go is on the top, but with the autumnal weather now in our midst, it really depends on the weather conditions on the day. For the two sessions you could not have had two more contrasting days, the first started overcast and ended with torrential rain and the second was unusually cold for the time of year but sunny. For both sessions, the students started fishing on the bottom, with a lead or method feeder and caught steadily in the morning.

In my view to get young people involved in fishing and keep them in the sport, there can be no better way than learning at school.

Once the new school term starts in September, one of the first things we must look at is finding suitable venues for our fishing sessions. Bearing in mind it must tie in with the fishing course, which states fishing at 4 different fisheries to learn different skills. So we are looking at lakes, rivers, canals etc. I like the fact we will be fishing at rivers in running water as hopefully with our students trying different fishing skills it will make them better all-round anglers. But to be honest in an age where carp fishing is all the rage, it is sometimes hard to get students to try river fishing.

Although we do visit various venues on the course, Grove Farm Fishery, Hadlow college, is our main venue as it is private for us to use and has the benefits of a good fishing lake, classroom, toilets etc.

A normal session involves starting in the classroom and doing some paperwork towards the Fishing course the students are taking. We also look at practical fishing skills including knot tying, rig making, baits etc.



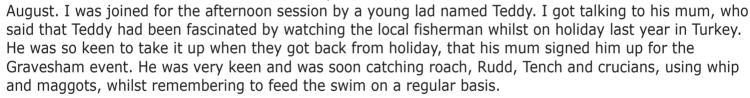
Reg with a nice carp

But a change of tactics in the afternoon, as the temperature warmed up a tad, feeding some pellets on top, saw some fine catches of carp, surface fishing and certainly more fish coming to the net. In the second session, as a change, a few students had a go at catching one of the legendary Perch that live in the water. Over the last 5 years we have had some quality fish up to 3lbs 8ozs, but to be honest for the last year we haven't seen a good perch.

There are various ways to catch a good perch at the venue, but some of our best fish have been caught on the whip, with a lot of maggot being fed. But because our current students tend to fish more for carp and not for silver fish on the Whip, its natural that we are not catching so many big Perch. On the second session a lad who had been very patient, did catch a lovely perch at 2lbs 2ozs, not the biggest perch in the lake, but still a cracking fish for a young lad. Big perch can be really elusive, I have seen other anglers at the venue, fishing for Perch, trying all the in methods, including big baits such as prawns and lobworms, who normally go home disappointed.



On the Gravesham event at Shorne on Monday 19th



I told his mum that I travel in from Benfleet in Essex. She told me that Teddy's grandparents lived in Rayleigh, which is a couple of miles up the road from where I live. I told her that my club Rochford AC, were holding a junior open day on Wednesday at the club lake and as it was an open day, Teddy would be welcome to attend. So, on Wednesday 21st, Teddy and his two sisters Georgia and Olivia turned up at



Stan with a superb 2lbs 2ozs perch



Johny got in on the action as well

Falklands Lake. I ended up coaching all 3 together for over 4 hours. Using whips, baited with either maggots or sweetcorn, they all caught their fair share of skimmer bream, F1's, roach, perch, tench and even some of the barbel that have been stocked. Teddy remembered what he had been shown at Shorne Country Park on the Monday as he managed to feed almost 2 pints of bait over the 4-hour session.

Mum Anita spoke with our junior secretary Dave Bates, who suggested they might like to join the club, as their grandmother (who came along too) only lived a few miles away. I got a text message from Anita (mum) later on the Wednesday evening to say that Teddy, Georgia and Olivia are now paid-up junior members of Rochford AC and will all receive start up whips and tackle in due course.

Rochford have held junior open days throughout the summer holidays. The hope is to encourage more juniors to take up fishing in whatever form. I hope that Teddy, Georgia and Olivia continue with the same enthusiasm that they showed that day.

The Golden Years of Coarse Fishing

Legends of the 60's - No.7 Fred Wagstaff 1939-2003



Messrs Wagstaff, Igglesden and Goodrum unloading Fred's Reliant Robin for a session on 'The Cut'

In this series I write only of those great anglers I once knew, met or fished with during the halcyon days of the mid 1960s. I was just a lad of 19 starting out in specimen fishing and eager to learn from the masters of the era. All the great anglers, like sportsmen, were dedicated, obsessed and single minded. It cost many their marriages, their jobs and for some, their lives.

The 1960s produced some remarkable anglers, many living in Northampton, Hitchin and Oxford. Coarse fishing was popular for young boys growing up just after the war, and our lakes, canals and rivers were in pristine condition and teaming with good fish that hadn't seen an angler for years during the war. Reservoirs were under construction in the midlands and our 'water boards' were keen to stock them with trout and promote trout fishing,

encouraging us to get out more on the water and try

flyfishing during the enforced coarse fish close season which ran on all water from March 15th through to June 15th.

There was a growing band of teenagers, born during or just after the war, who lived in the midlands near to all this water, and were reading the books and articles of the masters like Walker, Taylor, Venables and Stone. Off the shelf tackle was very minimal, and rods and reels were really quite basic before glass or carbon fibre came in. Rods were built of Tonkin cane (bamboo), greenheart, or the newly developed split, or built,

cane. When Richard Walker developed his famous MK 1V carp rod and sold kits from his namesakes shop in Hythe Kent, J.B. Walker, of Marine Parade, we budding specimen hunters were in our element. We added home made nets, bivvies, buzzers, hook rigs, trollies and floats to our tackle. All home made, and the forerunners to what you have today commercially available at the fishing superstores!

In 1961 a young angler from Northampton called Frederick J. Wagstaff went to Sywell Reservoir just north of his town, armed with a homemade rod and a large 4 inch copper spoon to fish for pike. He landed a 28lbs fish that day, a huge fish for the time. At just 22 years of age, an angling legend was born. Fred lived near Billing Aquadrome the scene of another great angling achievement in 1957, by another local angler Bob Reynolds, who was to become his great friend.

No angler past or present has since had such an influence on Pike fishing as Fred Wagstaff. A master of lure fishing, be it plugs, spoons or wobbled deadbaits, he organised the import from America of hundreds of lures, from the Heddon company, including floating popping plugs and massive jointed plugs, some over a foot long. The Norfolk Broads in the 1970's was his testing ground, and Lathams of Potter Heigham, was the shop that sold them. Our own Andy Lush was also instrumental in this lure import business when he owned the 'Friendly Fisherman' tackle shop in Tunbridge Wells. I first encountered Fred on the banks of the Peterborough Electricity Cut in 1965, when fishing for winter carp in the warm water from the outfall from the old power station, long since closed down and the carp redistributed to the River Nene! Fred accounted for several good fish over 20lbs, night fishing in January, sometimes in atrocious snowy conditions, and I was mad enough to be there too after a 150-mile trip from Kent, with Jim G and Grahame I. We all tried it. It was the 'in' place to go during that harsh winter of 1965/66. Some caught huge carp, and others vowed never to return!

I was not successful, but saw my first large carp landed on potato or bread paste baits! All long before Fred Wilton has ever seen a boilie!!!

Fred Wagstaff drove a three-wheel Reliant Robin and loaded it all up with all the tackle needed for a weekend stay on the banks of that disgusting venue, with the smell of the sugar beet factory over the other side of the River Nene, and the steam coming off the surface of the water. We must all have been mad!



Battling an Irish Lough Pike from the inflatable 'Piglet'

Fred was determined to succeed, and succeed he did. Carp, Eels, Tench, well before his involvement in pike and huge Trout.

My next meetings with the great Fred Wagstaff were on the banks of the Grand Union Canal at Weedon, just west of Northampton during the close season eel fishing trips in 1968 and 69, when we were allowed to fish for giant eels at night during the spring. We were all at that time members of the new National Anguilla Club, and Eels were the 'in' species around that time. All the famous anglers of the era were at one time members of the NAC, and weekend fish ins were as much a social gathering as a serious effort to bag a specimen eel. Fred of course nearly always had the best eel of the night, caught on huge lob worms harvested from my father's lawn down at Hayes in Kent, by torchlight. We all caught big eels, and it was here that I was fishing the towpath swim between Church and Reynolds, and it became known as the 3 Bob swim, in one of his early articles of the time. Bob Reynolds, Bill Keel, Mike Muse Mike Prorok and Fred Wagstaff hatched a plan to go to Southern Ireland during the summers of 1968 and 1969 to fish Lough Ree and Templehouse Lake in County Sligo for the giant pike and wild



Despite being best known for pike and trout, Fred's only book focused on chub

brown trout that inhabited the waters. Much was discussed on the banks of the GUC during our Eel trips, and I was even invited to go with them. The rest is history as the 5 of them spent many months over there between 1968 and 1971, taking with them the rickety old 13ft wooden boat, the 'Black Pig' and Piglet where they fished the huge loughs like Mask, Corrib and Nafooey catching vast numbers of big pike to 29lbs and wild brown trout to 16lbs largely trolling at huge depths with large copper spoons and plugs. Fred had 3 twenties in one day, and dozens of doubles many times in that prolific period. They sold the smaller trout to fund their trips, and cooked fish to live off, reporting back to the Angling Times each week to raise money for their trip. They went out in Bob's old Morris Traveller, and left home with only £30 in their pockets, hoping for good results to raise some money whilst they were there.

Fred caught over 30 pike of over 20lbs to go with his big fish from Loch Awe, Sywell and Horsey Mere, the pair became legends and I remember their articles in the old Angling Times with utter amazement. The Angling Times loved the pair, they were hot property and were next signed up to do the Thames Weir pools and write about it each week in a feature called 'Footloose' with Fred and Bob. They caught Pike, Chub, Barbel roach and the odd Thames Trout, and their rubber boat 'Piglet' was a feature on the river all year with A.T. emblazoned on its side. Next it was the Norfolk Broads where this successful couple of anglers were to hit the headlines with their huge pike captures from the Thurne river and Broads system in about the 1967 and 1968. Hundreds of pike, many over 20lbs on plugs and wobbled dead baits, before the Prymnesium outbreak took hold, and many of the Broadlands fish perished. They were experts in their field, casting plugs and popping floating plugs beside the Reed fringed lakes during the heyday of the Broads, when several 40lbs fish had been taken. I believe they also fished for bream and eels at night, after all, a small bream would be a good bait for pike!

Fred fished for shark off his boat the Black Pig off the Isle of Wight and off the north coast of Ireland, catching 95lbs blues which were nearly as long as the boat they were fishing from.

With his writing, Fred could be called one of the first professional coarse anglers fishing exclusively for a living, writing hundreds of great articles for the popular mainstream fishing magazines of the time, of which there were many. He was a bit of a rough diamond and a real character, very loud and funny, but suffered from depression and mood swings. You didn't get on the wrong side of Fred, although he was always very friendly towards me and my group. He came out of the RAF at the age of 21, but never seemed to have a proper job, relying on his fishing to make a living.

He fished at Billing, near his home with Bob Reynolds and Jim Gibbinson in 1965, but only managed one double figure carp from this notoriously hard water, despite fishing with Bob, the greatest Carp Catcher of the 1957-1963 generation at Billing. His letters to me from that venue at the time describe his frustration with the fishing and the persistent nuisance Bream!

When Rutland Water opened 1977 he tried his hand at Trout fishing, and 10 years later had one of his most memorable catches there. The record catch of an 8 fish limit of 48lbs of deep-water Browns. These were most definitely not caught dry fly fishing off the surface, but at great depth from a boat with huge lures, side casting with lead core shooting heads, almost legalised trolling but within the rules!

We all tried it, Bob Church was the expert at it, you had to get down deep where the big fish were lurking, I tried it at Bewl with leadcore lines,

Fred with three twenty pound pike, caught in a single day from Templehouse Lake, Ireland

near the cages but Ken Sinfoil, the then bailiff, caught me at it and I was banned!

After 30 years of solid fishing, and I mean SOLID, he gave it all up and took up oil painting from his new home in Leicester. His painting was by all account very good, and he sold many pictures. He had been divorced from his wife Joan, presumably because of his obsession with fishing, and he became very depressed in his later life, finally taking his own life in January 2003 at the age of 64. A great angler, but obsessive about it all. I vowed to never become so obsessed with fishing that it took over my life, preferring a much more varied and family-oriented life with many different hobbies and activities, not just fishing, as it can all become too much. Today, modern angling has changed so much from the pioneering days 60 years ago. I do not go much these days, yes, the fish are bigger, but it all seems so artificial now, so technical, so geared up to PBs and booking swims days, weeks in advance, and so expensive, give me a free Tench filled pool any day, a float a worm and a sunny morning. Eat your heart out Keston Ponds, those were the days!!

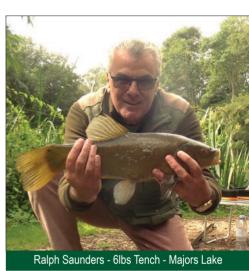
















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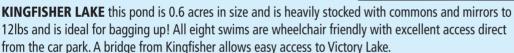
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Medway Man Bob Morris

very year for as long as I can remember I have said that I will start my pike fishing exploits a bit earlier – particularly on venues that don't have the first of October starting date. I have never really been sure why this rule exists except on very deep lakes where the water temperature can stay quite high well into the autumn. This can cause stress to a hooked pike from oxygen starvation. Strangely enough though it seems to be acceptable to fish for them during late winter when the large female fish are pregnant!

On many of the shallower lakes, rivers, drains canals etc, that I fish, the longer clear nights and falling average temps have already cooled things down considerably. Anyway, I have now had a few sessions during the last month, albeit only on an extra rod while out after the tench. I have to confess that with the exception of a mid-double that bit me off after a five-minute tussle when it grabbed my feeder, I have failed to score. I did however experience several dropped takes that eventually turned out to be Eels. I confirmed this by scaling down my bait to a small sardine head on a shortened hair rig, which produced one of about 3lbs. This was followed by one of similar size on my tench rod.

University of Essox



Which float ...?

Having action from Eels when I am Piking is nothing new and I am always suspicious of takes that stop or appear to snatch at the bait.

Conversely an Eel may grab a bait and belt off with it at great speed, but nothing is felt on the strike. Pike takes on the other hand are usually slow or steady- although this can depend on your set-up or whether you are fishing on a pressured water. Back in the summer I bumped into a serious Eel angler, who was just preparing to do a night session. After talking to him for a while about the potential for big Eels on this lake (I had landed them to 4lbs plus) he showed me his rigs. He referred to them as twig rigs and quite simply they consisted of a short length of tubing for an inch or more above the hook. He told me that with this arrangement he had yet to hook an Eel anywhere other than in the jaw



Eels are less likely to swallow baits with tubing above hook

and fish swallowing the bait was almost unheard of - as they would not take the tube into their mouths. This got me thinking, as I had only hooked Eels on my pike baits just in the lip for as long as I could remember in recent times. It may be that Eels are unlikely to swallow a bait on a hair rig and a substantial pike trace but my current inclusion of a piece of tubing for the first couple of inches up from the single hook made the two traces look very similar. I do very little actual Eel fishing these days as I know that they are in decline, and I don't want to add to their problems. I do often use smaller deadbaits when piking however just to prove that I haven't got a swim full of rigshy pike! If I could guarantee hooking them lightly and not harming them, I may well target them seriously a bit more often.

As you can imagine I have yet again enrolled at the superb 'University of Esox' and will be continuing to experiment and hopefully be able to learn more about these fascinating fish and the variations of tackle that can be employed to aid their capture and safe handling. I will be looking again at various float tactics along with buoyant baits, pre-baiting techniques and other tactics and I look forward to telling all in future episodes. Now for something completely different. I mentioned previously that I had been engaged in major house





PS. Just in case you wondered – the book is still available. If this sale goes well, I will have more to tempt you with – if not, well, there's always ebay!

renovations recently and this has involved a bit of a clear-out, to put it mildly. A lot of stuff has gone but more (apparently) must and my collection of ancient magazines seems to be up next. I am loath to get rid of this, as I still get a buzz out of reading some of the old material from the sixties and even some from the fifties. My first inclination was to put it up for sale on ebay but then I thought why not offer it to the readers of this column first. The advert below is detailing a three-year bound collection of the magazine 'Fishing' which contains many interesting articles and stories going back to 1963 - which basically is when I first started my fishing exploits. If anyone is interested in these please contact

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Elphicks Fisheries Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden TN12 8EL 01580 212512

Eureka Fishery 07597 879621 Nicholas Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN25 4AG

Furnace Brook Fishery and Fish Farm Trolliloes, Cowbeech, near Hailsham BN27 4QR 01435 830835

Gabriels Fishery Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP 07730 066088

Greenacres Farm Fishery 07933 934942 Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden TN27 8EH

Hawkhurst Fish Farm 01580 753813 Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT

Horam Manor Fishery Horam Manor Farm, Horam TN21 0JB 01323 840889 / 07707 759364

Horsmonden Lakes Grovehurst Road, Horsmonden TN12 8BO 01892 838576

Iden Wood Fishery Coldharbour Lane, Iden, Rye TN31 7UT 01797 280180 / 07906 232225

Knightingales Fishery

Stone-In-Oxney, Near Tenterden TN30 7HA 07941 176205 Mousehole Lakes Maidstone Road 07725 783405 Nettlestead, Near Paddock Wood ME18 5HR

Orchard Place Farm Fishery Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood TN12 6NY 01892 838576

Pittlands Lakes Churn Lane, Horsmonden, Paddock Wood TN12 8HL 07716 065900 **Sandwich Lakes Coarse Fishery**

07936 409912 Sandwich Ash Road (A257), Near Canterbury CT3 2DA Shirkoak Fishery Bethersden Road, Woodchurch, Ashford TN26 3PZ 07973 410973

The Lakes at Beachborough Beachborough Park 07469 809877 Newington, Near Folkestone CT18 8BW Tricklebrook Fishery

07743 955812 Colts Hill, Five Oak Green TN12 6SH **Willows Angling Centre**

Bax Farm, Lower Road, Teynham ME9 9BU 01795 520887 **Wylands Farm** 01424 893394

Trout Fisheries

Brick Farm Lakes Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux BN27 4RS 01323 832615

Cinder Hill Fly Fishing Membership available from:

Wylands Farm, Powdermill Lane, Battle TN33 0SU

01892 770903 Email: r.nathan@btinternet.com

Coltsford Mill Trout Fishery & Fly Tackle Shop Mill Lane, Oxted, Surrey RH8 9DG

01883 715666 / 07798 605867

Spring Hill Trout Waters

Albans Farm, Romford Road, Pembury TN2 4BB 07951 304515

Tenterden Trout Waters Coombe Farm, Chennell Park Road, Tenterden TN30 6XA www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk 07880 722868

Tackle & Bait Supplies

Absolute Tackle 12 Wealden Forest Park

Herne Common, Kent CT6 7LQ 01227 636724 / 07809 330854

Anglers Den 6 North Road, Pevensey Bay BN24 6AY	01323 460441
Angling Specialist (ASH) 29 Queen Street, Horsham RH13 5AA	01403 264644
A.R. Tackle 8 Castle Street, Hastings TN34 3DY	01424 422094
Bait Bucket Tackle Warehouse Unit T Rich Industrial Estate, Avis Way, Newhaven BN9 0DU	01273 933050
Best Buddies	01202 407144

28 Martello Drive, Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6PH **Bodle Angling** Cuckfield Road, Burgess Hill RH15 8RE 01444 247757

Camos Carp Cabin 11 Turner Street, Ramsgate CT11 8NJ 01843 581784

Chris Brown Products 01892 723670 email: chrisofoaks@gmail.com www.cbproducts.co.uk

Dens Tackle 73 Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6JN 01303 267053

Eastbourne Aquarium & Reptile Centre

19-21 Seaside, Eastbourne BN21 3PP 01323 730635 **Gabriels Fishery Tackle Shop**

Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP 07730 066088 **Henfold Bait & Tackle Henfold Lakes**

Henfold Lane, Newdigate, Dorking RH5 4RW 07956 043922

Jack Frost 01293 521186 Reynolds Place, West Green, Crawley RH11 7HB

Kent Angling Centre 44, Seal Road, Sevenoaks TN14 5AR 01732 905088

Medway Tackle Supplies 01634 475260 11 Twydall Green, Gillingham ME8 6JY

MFC Outdoor Store 9 Station Road, Hailsham BN27 2BE 01323 846883

NJ Tackle 150 Milton Road, Gravesend DA12 2RG 01474 353998 **Orchard Tackle**

58 High Brooms Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9DB 07494 670328 **Pinions Baits** 01622 718580

431 London Road, Ditton, Aylesford ME20 6DB **Polegate Angling Centre** Unit 7, Birch Industrial Estate, Eastbourne BN23 6PH 01323 486379

Romney Angling 01797 362889 59, High Street, New Romney TN28 8AH

Sheppey Angling, Unit 5, Regis Business Park New Road, Sheerness, Kent ME12 1HA 01795 661089 South London Angling Centre

0208 852 4451 286 Lee High Road, London SE13 5PJ **Sussex Bait Developments**

Falkenvil Fishery, Saltmarsh Lane, Hailsham BN27 2RJ 07971 303949 The Tackle Box

251 Watling Street, Dartford DA2 6EG 01322 292400

Bromley (Kent) & District AS PO Box 895, East Grinstead RH19 9ND

Email: bdas-kent-enquiry@bdaskent.co.uk 01892 770903 **Cinder Hill Fly Fishing**

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

Hastings Bexhill & District Postal enquiries to S.Corke, 2, The Sidings, Bexhill On Sea TN40 1RF

Chris Pagan **07429 655237** / Steve Potter **07935 268174**

Linton Angling Society Jason Tuckey on **07983 569220** or email lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk

Tonbridge & District A & FPS

Angling Clubs & Societies

For all enquiries please email: info@tonbridge-angling.co.uk Wantsum Angling Association 07570 505934

or contact via website www.wantsumaa.co.uk













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