

DECEMBER 2024

# FRESHWATER INFORMER

No. 330

**LOGAN  
HUTCHISON  
30lbs 10ozs  
COPPINS  
LAKE**

**FREE**



Sandwich  
Coarse Fishery



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## ORCHARD PLACE FARM FISHING

13 FISHING LAKES in the KENT COUNTRYSIDE

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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  
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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 December edition of the Freshwater Informer

Dull mornings and dark evenings give one plenty of time to reflect on the last twelve months. If you happened to ask me to review the last year, I wouldn't have much to tell. In truth, it feels like it's all been a bit 'meh', but sitting down with this year's editions of the FWI paints a very different picture. Young anglers catching huge fish, older anglers returning to the sport or catching their very first fish. Breathtaking sunrises, displays of the northern lights over lakes at night. Countless PB's broken, targets achieved, and new ones set. Of course fishing faces its challenges, from predators to pollution, but in many ways our community has never been stronger. It attracts people from all walks of life, bound together by a common passion for the countryside and a love of the simple enjoyment that angling provides.

With the end of the year fast approaching, we would like to take the opportunity

to thank everyone who has contributed to the continued success of the magazine. The tackle shops and fisheries who support us, the writers who give so much time and effort to their articles, the companies who provide prizes for our competitions, the anglers, young and old alike, who send in their catch reports, everyone who works tirelessly behind the scenes, and of course, you the reader.



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The Freshwater Informer

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

**COPY DEADLINE for JANUARY 2025**

**MONDAY 16th December 2024 at 5pm**

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## Beaver Fishery

Lingfield, Surrey

**Snipe Lake** has continued to be very tricky over the last few weeks with only a handful of anglers trying their luck. The lake has only seen two fish banked, with **Scott Harvey** landing a 20lbs stockie mirror and **Nick Constantine** banking a **PB** 33lbs 3ozs common. It continues to confuse us all as we watch the fish kicking up the silt, bosh out during the day and nights and bang around the remaining sets of lily pads.

**Westlake** has continued to fish well with the majority of anglers banking some nice cats. Just a few examples are **Les Norton** on his first visit to us banking a **PB** 47lbs 2ozs, **Chris Streeter** banked 6 cats to 54lbs 2ozs, **Martin Smith** banking over 11 cats to 49lbs 8ozs over a few sessions, **Vic Collier** banked 3 to 32lbs 7ozs on his day session, **Les Franklin** banked two at 35lbs 8ozs and 62lbs while **Oliver Windham** banked 6 more cats to a new **PB** of 40lbs which also won him Fish of the Month.

**Jeff's Lake** has been a bit more productive for some and a struggle for others, a few reports given to us are **Mark Bunker** who banked 6 bream, 11 F1's and 2 little mirrors, **Ian Thomsett** did an afternoon and banked 12 F1's and a few bream, **John Howe** has done a couple of short sessions and banked a total of 25 bream and 3 F1's, **Christian Culicovschi** banked 13 mirrors and commons and 8 bream and **Ian Chescoe** banked 9 carp to 7lbs 8ozs.

**Daughter's Lake** has, like Snipe Lake been a tad tricky but a few fish have been banked, **Jordan Simpson** banked a 14lbs common, **Callum Hutchins** banked an 11lbs common and a 15lbs 6ozs mirror, **Richard Marshal** banked a 21lbs fully scaled mirror, **Bob Standen** had two mirrors at 14lbs and 15lbs 2ozs while his brother **Mick** banked a 14lbs 2ozs mirror.

**Eden Pond** has only seen a couple of anglers on there but **Wally Warricker** has had a couple of good days banking 3 tench to 5lbs and one carp on his first session then banked 6 tench to 5lbs, 3 bream and 4 carp on the next session.



Martin Smith - 49lbs 8ozs



Les Franklin - 62lbs Westlake



Jack Notridge - 14lbs - Majors



Adrian Buck - 19lbs - Majors



Vic Collier - 32lbs 7ozs - Westlake



Callum Hutchins - 11lbs - Daughters



Terry Edwards - 12lbs 3ozs - Majors



Oliver Windham - 40lbs PB



Sam Hopkins - 18lbs 8ozs - Majors



Scott Harvey - 20lbs - Snipe



Joseph Cooper - 1 of 3 Jacks - Majors





Michael Terry - 11lbs 14ozs PB - Majors



Ross Lewis - 31lbs 6ozs - Maze

**Maze Lake** has only seen a few fish banked as there have not been a lot of anglers on there but the lake was host to the usual **Steve and Josh Wood's** and a couple of friends little knock up and the winner banked a nice bag of carp weighing 31lbs 6ozs.

**Majors Lake** has seen some nice fish banked of most species. A few notable mentions are young **Joseph Cooper** who banked a few pike to 7-8lbs, **Craig Shirley** banking carp at 12lbs, 12lbs 2ozs and 14lbs and 6 bream, **terry Edwards** amongst the carp albeit of the low double sizes to 12lbs 3ozs, **Jack Notridge** banking two carp to 14lbs, brothers **Mick and Bob Standen** tried their luck on Majors and Mick banked 10lbs mirror and a bream while Bob banked a 8lbs 12ozs mirror, a 13lbs 8ozs common and then a 17lbs common, **Dennis Wheeler** had 5 bream to 5lbs 10ozs and a 12lbs 5ozs mirror, **Adrian Buck** had a common of 8lbs and a 19lbs mirror, **Sam Hopkins** banked 3 bream to 5lbs 8ozs and a mirror of 18lbs 8ozs and **Karl Wallis** banked some decent bream to 8lbs 9ozs and he was lucky enough to meet the mirror called 'Orange Spot' at Karl's scales span round to a new **PB** of 29lbs 12ozs.

# BODLE angling

Cuckfield Road  
**BURGESS HILL RH15 8RE**

**01444 247757**

Opening times:  
Mon-Fri: 8.00am to 5.30pm  
Sat: 8.00am to 12.30pm  
Sunday: Closed Bank Holiday: Closed

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

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

**MAJORS LAKE**  
MIXED COARSE LAKE  
SPECIMEN LAKE  
NO FISHING PERMITTED  
THANK - YOU

**MAZE LAKE**  
MIXED COARSE LAKE  
SPECIMEN LAKE  
NO FISHING PERMITTED  
THANK - YOU

**STOCK POND**  
NO FISHING PERMITTED  
THANK - YOU

**SNIP LAKE**  
SPECIMEN LAKE  
NO FISHING PERMITTED  
THANK - YOU

**WEST LAKE**  
SPECIMEN LAKE  
NO FISHING PERMITTED  
THANK - YOU

**JEFF'S LAKE**  
SPECIMEN LAKE  
NO FISHING PERMITTED  
THANK - YOU

**DAUGHTERS LAKE**  
SPECIMEN LAKE  
NO FISHING PERMITTED  
THANK - YOU

**MOAT POND**  
SPECIMEN LAKE  
NO FISHING PERMITTED  
THANK - YOU

**EDEN POND**  
SPECIMEN LAKE  
NO FISHING PERMITTED  
THANK - YOU

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



# MFC

## Outdoor Stores

Here at MFC Outdoor Stores we have a huge range of fishing supplies. From Fox and Korda to Drennan and Gardner to Dynamite and Sticky plus many more.

We also have a large range of Air Rifles and Workwear, STC Boots, Hiking Boots and Wellies



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THINKING TACKLE

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- 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





# Ten great Christmas present ideas

*With this being the Festive season edition of the Freshwater Informer I thought I would compile a list of Christmas present ideas as I know when I am often asked what would I like for Christmas. My mind goes blank, so I sat down for a couple of hours before writing this column in preparation of some fishing festive ideas that I hope will help you decide what to ask for or buy for an angling friend or family member. It is also the time of the year when fishing shops offer some great discounted deals so shop around and pick up a great bargain.*

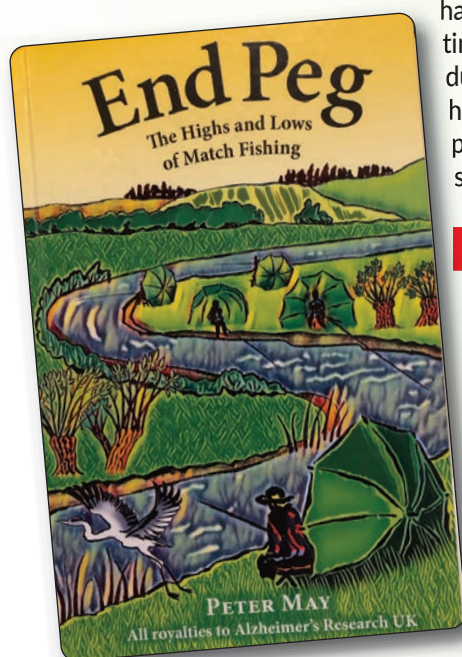
## No 1 🎁 Korum Self Take Station £9.99

If you fish late into the evening or through the night and you land a specimen catch then this brilliant little gadget will help you take that special catch shot. The self take station provides a bright, adjustable light connected to a mobile phone holder. It can be used with a camera tripod or with the adaptor can be screwed on to a bankstick has the adaptor has ¼" to 3/8" threads. It has a 4 way brightness level which is powered by AA batteries (not included) a perfect stocking filler.

## No 2 🎁 End Peg by Peter May £14.99

If you like to read on the subject of fishing then I can recommend Peter May's book END PEG – The Highs and Lows of Match Fishing. The book focuses on twelve important days in the life of a match angler capturing some funny moments that match fishing creates encased in the backdrop of glorious

countryside and riverside wildlife. The author Peter May has been an angler all of his life and cannot remember a time when he did not fish but he can recall many times during his school and working life when he should not have been fishing. All royalties of this book go to Alzheimer's Research UK so if you decide to purchase this book you will be supporting a great cause. I picked up my copy on Amazon at a slightly cheaper price.



## No 3 🎁 Black Bottom Floats

In last month's column I mentioned some excellent handmade Perch bobbers and Sarkander waggler floats that I have been using to good effect by the excellent Andy Cowdery of Black Bottom Floats. Andy has his own YouTube channel and disappears into his 'Pleasure Shed' to makes videos on how to make the floats he sells via his eBay shop <https://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/andy.bbf> The videos are very educational as well as a good chill out watch and you will love the quality of the floats which are finished to perfection.

## No 4 🎁 Stainless Steel Flask

Every angler that ventures out on cold wintry days should have a hot flask of tea or coffee in his rucksack. There are some very good ones on the market in the price bracket of £15 to £25 and being stainless they will never smash when dropped unlike the old style glass insulated flasks. I used to go through flasks like they were out of fashion until the stainless steel variety came along and saved the day.

## No 5 🎁 Pewter Badges

I must admit I am a bit of a sucker for fishing badges and I have many available to buy in brass in various colours with the fishing tail films logo on them, however I also have a collection myself of Pewter badges in the species that I like to fish for. They range from £4 to £8 and make a great little keepsake to wear on a hat, beanie or jacket. One of my favourite Pewter badges is of a centre pin reel plus I have a soft spot for my perch and roach badges. As yet I have not found a crucian carp badge but will keep on looking.





#### No 6 🎁 Hip Flask

If the angler in your family likes a little swig of whiskey or rum then a small Hip flask containing said liquids on a cold winter days fishing is the perfect way to keep a little colour in the cheeks when the easterly wind is blowing. Priced around the £25 to £40 mark a little engraving down the side marks the special occasion of the present and brings more happy memories to the gift.

#### No 7 🎁 Beanie Hat

You cannot go wrong with the next item on my festive shopping list and that is the Beanie Hat, I love a beanie hat for the cold and windy days and they say you lose so much heat through your body via the head so with a warm beanie on top does keep those ears from freezing and when you are trying to concentrate on your next bite, you need to be warm. There are so many shapes, colours and materials to choose from but they range from £10 up to £20.

#### No 8 🎁 Korum Blox Loaded Tackle Box

Korum do make some great tackle for the specialist angler and in there Blox range of tackle items they have a couple of options of what they call the 'Loaded Blox Tackle Box' which has a selection of inserted baiting needles, compartments for bits and bobs tackle items like floats, hook packets, weights, plummets etc etc. The Box fits neatly into a rucksack and I use one of these boxes to store all my perch terminal tackle items, it is very neat and compact. Price wise you can pick up one of these excellent boxes for around £22 if you search around.

#### No 9 🎁 Korum KBI 3 Bite Alarm Presentation Set £79.99

This 3 Bite alarm set is superb value for the angler looking to sit behind a set of alarms whilst targeting species such as specimen perch, roach, crucians, tench and bream plus of course some mid-range carpings. The code model K0360021 is packed with an impressive specification such as three high-output alarms and a wireless receiver, ensuring you never miss an opportunity when the fish decide to bite. Adjustable volume on each alarm, with the added benefit of a vibrating function on the receiver. Adding to the versatility of this set, each alarm features a 5mm LED with a 10-second latch. The Korum KBI Bite Alarm Presentation Set is powered by a 9V battery for the alarms and 3 AAA batteries for the receiver, which are not included in the set. This convenient power solution keeps your alarms and receiver functioning optimally, ensuring you're always ready for action. The set also includes 3 x bright green bite indicators. The alarms use 9V batteries which are not included. Being the time of year I have seen this excellent set sell for £63.99 so shop around when you are looking to spend your Christmas present money. If 3 alarms is too much then don't worry as Korum also sell a 2 bite alarm set up with the same specification for a RRP of £59.99 but again shop around as these can be purchased at discounted prices.

#### No 10 🎁 Free Subscription to Fishing Tail Films

The final item on my list is FREE for all to enjoy, as many of you know I have my own YouTube channel that is called Fishing Tail Films and by subscribing to the channel and giving the videos a Like helps me to promote my love of this great activity all year round. The channel already hosts well over 100 videos as I go in search of catching species such as perch, roach, tench, bream, carp, crucian, chub, grayling, dace and the humble gudgeon. I love my fishing and the surroundings I fish in and many of my films try to capture why many of us like to fish. With a gentle soundtrack I also offer a few tips on the way in terms of tackle and baits. All you need is an email address to subscribe to the channel and join me on my fishing travels.

I hope if you are out fishing over the festive period like I will be, that you have a great time and that 2025 brings all us anglers a fantastic year ahead. I wish all my colleagues at FWI a Merry Christmas and to all our readers a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Personally 2025 will bring some big changes for me which will result in many more hours fishing and filming for my YouTube channel.

*fishing tail films*

**See you in the New Year and Tight Lines**

**Russ Evans**



**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!

**Speci 1** Fishing has started to slow down now that the colder months have arrived. The carp are still showing over small baited areas or fishing pva bags close to the islands or inner margins. 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 which will then attract the big perch to feed.

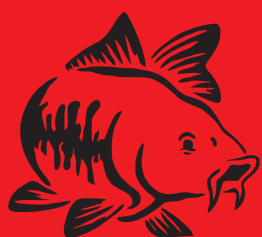
**Speci 2** The carp in this lake have been coming out by fishing to margin spots with solid pva bags or a little pva mesh bag and using fruity or sweet boilies like cell. Catfishing is more dominant fish in this lake and do push out the carp feeding in your area, as they will eat anything. But if you 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. The catfish have started to slow down now that the colder weather has arrived but this only helps out when targeting the carp.

**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 pellets. Still fishing really well even though the colder weather is here.

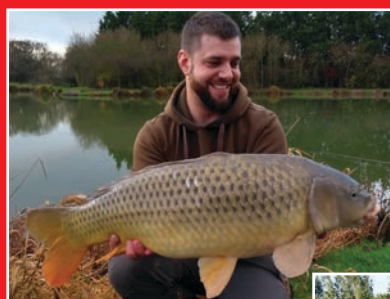
**Kingfisher** This lake is the one to be on any time of the year especially during the winter as it produces lovely mixed bags of fish and keeps you going all day. Fish can literally be caught on the top two sections of your pole on any bait that you wish to use.

**Bluebell** Tench have slowed down but the 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.

**Don't forget to dip your nets, slings and unhooking mats/cradles or you will be asked to leave. CCTV IS IN OPERATION! Winter Opening Times: 7am - 4pm.**



## Shirkoak Fishery and B&B



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 from £15 for three 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**

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





# GREENACRES FARM FISHERY



Sissinghurst Road | Biddenden | Kent | TN27 8EH

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

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

Prices start at £10 per session on the coarse lakes. For the specimen lakes prices start at £20 for the day rising to £30 for a 24hrs ticket (up to 3 rods). Lessons now available for all ages. Gates open at 7am and close at 6.30pm (Winter hours 7am to 4pm)

**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](http://www.greenacresfarmfishery.co.uk)**

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





## Gabriels Fishery Edenbridge, Kent

Gabriel's fishery is open through the season, with **Oak Lake** and **Hare Lake** fishing particularly well. Good size carp has been coming out of Oak, our shop now stocks new range of bait (Urban Baits) and fish appears not able to resist and Hare Lake has seen pike coming out on daily basis.



## FRESHWATER INFORMER

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



5 lakes and  
1.25 miles  
of the  
River Eden

Toilets and  
shower facilities

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FISHERY**

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available

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SWALLOW LAKE  
& HARE LAKE  
great for beginners

Specimen Lake  
ADMIRAL LAKE  
fish to 41lbs

OAK LAKE  
carp to 30lbs

SILVER  
Match Lake

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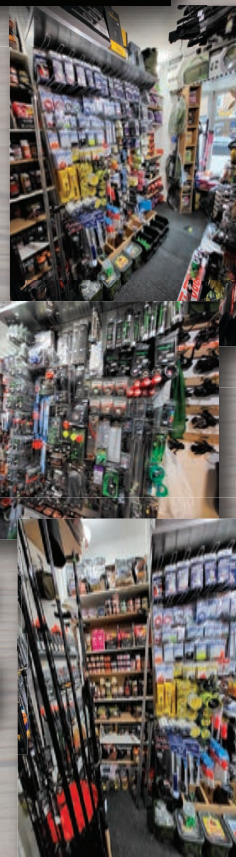
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Aurthur Stubborn - 36lbs 10ozs - Plantation Lake



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Billy Wells - 50lbs 2ozs - Pullens Lake



Lulian Ciobanu - 38lbs 5ozs - Pullens Lake



Lee Hiatt - 38lbs - Pullens Lake



Pullens Lake - October 24



Simon Tume - Plantation Lake

# Elphicks Fisheries



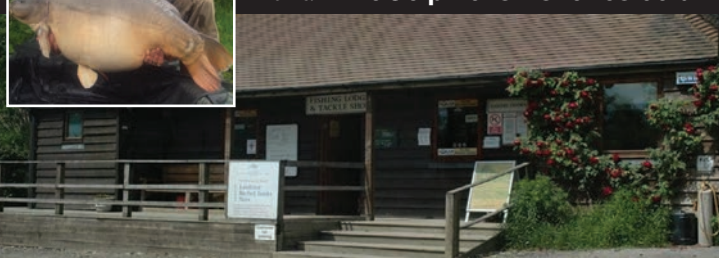
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Callum Ireland - 30lbs 11ozs - Prairie Lake



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Oscar Green - Main Lake - 30lbs 6ozs Common



Oscar Green - Main Lake - 61lbs 4ozs Catfish



Oliver Carr - 56lbs Catfish - Main Lake

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Jordan Priestley - Quarry Lake



Jordan Priestley - Quarry Lake



Jordan Priestley - Quarry Lake



Rob Pizzy - 29lbs 8ozs Mirror - Specimen Lake



**39lb 12oz**

Lee Todd - Specimen Lake - 39lbs 12ozs Common

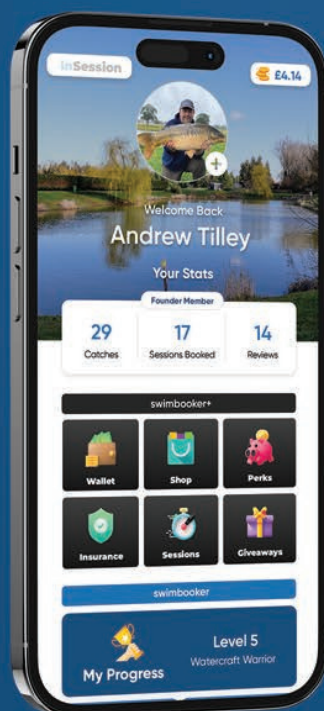




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SCAN ME



# On the bank with the FWI

*It's often said that those they can do, whilst those that can't talk about it/ Well once in a while the Freshwater Informer team take a break from merely talking, and writing about, other anglers captures, and actually get out on the bank themselves to try and demonstrate that they've still got what it takes to call themselves fishermen!*

First up was **'Fearless' Freddy Beaney** who, in-between a hectic match schedule, managed to get his winter predator season underway with a couple of beautifully marked pike from his local River Medway. It is really encouraging to see that Freddy is among a growing number of anglers, including our own Bob Morris, who prefer to target pike using single, rather than treble, hooks.



'Fearless' Freddy Beaney



The single hook approach is working well

The vast majority of people who have made the switch to singles report that their hooking rate is in no way negatively affected, and that dealing with fish on the bank is far easier for both the angler and their quarry. A sentiment borne out by Freddy's recent success using this approach.

Next up is **Alex Coutts**, who took a leisurely, if somewhat precarious, stroll along the River Rother in flood conditions. A couple of hours spent running float fished lob worms through some of the slightly less aggressive areas of the river resulted in a nice brace of good sized chub.



Alex with a nice River Rother Chub



True, he thought that the first one was a snag, and the second a pike, but he is easily confused and doesn't get out much – so we won't hold it against him!

Without a doubt, top FWI rod for this month was **Glen Relf**, who was out on the trail of specimen sized Perch. A relative newcomer to the species, Glen only really started targeting them at the tail end of last winter, when he managed to land his first two pounder.



Not a snag....



Glen with his new PB of 3lbs 1oz

This winters campaign is already off to a flier as he managed to break his PB not once, but twice during a day session at Mousehole Fishery, nr Nettleshead. Presenting a popped up prawn section, in conjunction with a free running lead set-up, Glen focused his attention on a deep area of the margins whilst feeding a steady supply of maggots over the top to create plenty of bait fish activity.



The first of two PB's from Mousehole Lakes

The tactic certainly paid off when his quiver tip slammed around to signal the take from the first of his new PB's at a very respectable 2lbs 11ozs. Repeating the process saw Glen push the bar even higher, and claim FWI bragging rights for the month, when a second bite resulted in his first three pounder, weighing in at 3lbs 1oz, and second personal best of the day.





## My Fishing Travels by Russ Evans

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



**You Tube**

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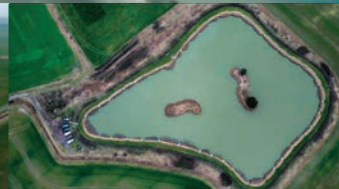
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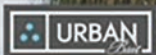
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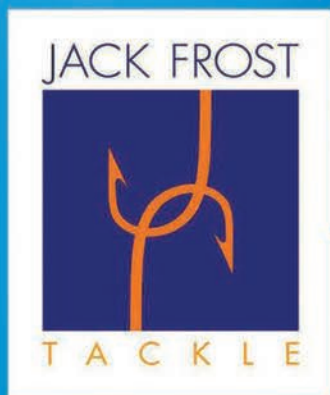


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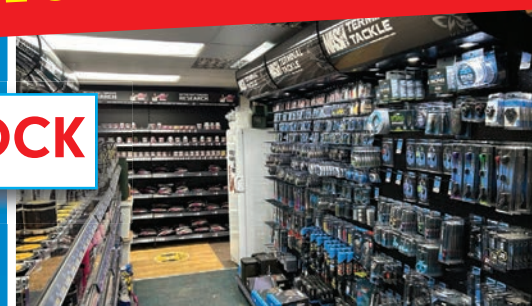


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# Diary of a Match Angler

## Match Tricklebrook Fishery

### TRICKLEBROOK FISHERY

After a week of non-stop preparation, making rigs, hook lengths etc I was ready to go. I got to the fishery just gone 7am, got the barrow loaded, dipped my nets and went for a walk around the lake as they were putting the pegs in. From speaking to a few anglers I know during the week they informed me that the venue has been fishing particularly hard and depended on the draw. After going around pegging the lake and getting some useful information off of the other anglers it was time for the draw. I was one of the first to put my hand into the bag of mystery and pick out peg 14 which was located up the spit, fishing into the right hand side. As I got to the peg I realised that it was the same peg that won the last match with 130lb so I was feeling confident. I quickly got myself set up, so let's go through the rigs I used on the day.

**RIGS** Pellet rig x2. As I was fishing in around two and a half foot of water I choose to fish a 0.3g slim line frenzee style float which was tied to 0.20 drennan supplex mainline with one NO.9 dropper and a bulk of 6 NO.9's 3" apart, then down to a 0.16 drennan supplex hook length with a super LWG in a size 14's. The bait i was using with this rig was expanders in 4/6mm, corn and maggots.

**PLUMBING UP** I decided to fish micros through a medium size guru cad pot at 13m which was just short of a over hanging tree which plumbed up to be around two and a half foot deep, I then realised that it was the same depth all over the same part of the lake I was fishing except the edge. This meant that I could fish the same rig on different lines which made it quick and efficient. Then down my edge was around 18 inches deep.

**HOW THE MATCH WENT** With the rigs and plumbing up done, it was time for the all in. The whistle went at 9:30am and I began on my 13m line fishing a 4mm expander over a medium size cad pot full of micros, after around 2 minutes I noticed a few bubbles coming up around the float and shortly after I had a lovely clean bite and fish on. With the first fish landed, I repeated the process again and pretty much the same thing happened. I started to get into a little rhythm and was catching steadily then it would slow down before another spell of fish feeding. By 12:30pm the action had slowed, however I wasn't too concerned as I could still see fizzing coming up on my spot but it did give me the opportunity to feed my edge spot. I potted in two pot fulls of Dynamite F1 sweet ground bait and left it for an hour to settle. I stuck out on my 13m line as I knew there were fish out there but couldn't get a bite on expander, I changed to two dead reds and had an instant reaction. I had another little run on this before I over fed and the swim looked like a Jacuzzi! A change was needed, so instead of two dead reds, I put on a grain of corn which stands out and managed to nick a few more. With an hour past it was time to try the edge with a piece of corn and potted in ground bait through a cad pot and had a instant reaction. However this was the only fish I had from the down the edge, and so I spent the last half hour fishing long and adding the odd fish to my total. At 2:30pm the whistle went and I was feeling particularly confident. Being the last to be weighed I knew what weight I had to beat which was 40lbs, so I emptied my net and the scales read 50lbs 7ozs which meant I managed to win my section and the overall match. The result also put me top of the table in the Sunday league points, let's hope I can hold onto it!

### HAWKHURST FISH FARM

Match day, Sunday just gone. As I done so much prep for the Tricklebrook match it meant that I didn't have too much to do for my next outing at Hawkhurst Fish Farm. I made up a few more rigs and got the bait ready then I was ready to go. I arrived at the fishery for just gone 7am, loaded up the barrow and spent a while just looking at the lake, trying to spot moving fish and I did. I then went for a little walk around the lake again to see anything topping and if I could see if they were showing in particular area but it wasn't the case, as they were showing all over the lake, but as usual, as soon as the whistle went they all disappeared with only the odd one showing. Before that, I had drawn out permanent peg 4 which was located right in the middle of the left bank. I wasn't too happy with the draw, however anything can happen. As I began setting up I was informed by one of our angles that the peg I had drawn had produced a weight of 180-200lb recently, so obviously this got my hopes up of having a great day. I quickly finished setting up and was time for plumbing up and the rigs.

**PLUMBING UP** I set up a line at 13.5m for fishing pellets and plumed up to around 5 – 5 and a half foot, I then plumbed up a short line at a top kit and three which was a couple of inches deeper than my long line surprisingly and finally an edge line which plumed up to around 4ft so a deep edge.

**RIGS** Pellet line at 13.5m. As I was fishing in around 5 and a half foot of water I chose to fish a 0.3g slim line frenzee float which was tied to 0.20 drennan supplex with one dropper and a bulk of 6 no.9's, then for the hook length it was 0.16 drennan supplex with a super LWG in a size 14's, also it was a 6" hook length.





# ch Days & Hawkhurst Fish Farm

*Freddy Joe Beaney*

*I was also using two no.8 back shots to stabilise the rig and hit more bites, I was also using blue drennan power pull elastic as I find you don't bump as many fish as it's nice and soft with plenty of stretch and very confident of landing the fish, it's also long lasting and just brilliant.*

**EDGE RIG** - *I was fishing a 0.4g round body frenzee float, when fishing down the edge in a good depth of water, I like to fish pretty heavy. I do this because as the bigger fish tend to come in the edge they often miss your rig and run the risk of getting foul hooked. Fishing a little heavier helps reduce this problem. I fish a 0.4g round body Ed frenzee float tied to 0.20 drennan supplex with a bulk of 9 no.9's but I like to just have a gap between the stotz so they are not crammed up together, down to a 0.16 drennan hook length with a super LWG in a size 12 as I was fishing baits like corn, 6mm expander, etc. I was also using a drennan purple power pull elastic which is a little heavier than the blue because I was expecting better stamp fish.*

**PASTE RIG** - *Very simple, a Johnny paste float from Gortini pole floats in a size 4x14's with an inline drennan olivet free running up and my 0.20 drennan supplex mainline, with a 6" 0.16 drennan supplex hook length with a LWG in a size 12. With an orange drennan power pull elastic.*

## BAIT CHOICES

**GROUND BAIT** - *My go to ground bait at the moment has to be the Dynamite F1 sweet, as I find the fish just can't resist it. The way I prepare the ground bait is at a ratio of two parts ground bait to one part water and leave it for around 30-45 mins, I then add a tiny bit more water and then push it through a 4mm riddle. It's going to be heavy so you will probably have to push it through the riddle by hand but then you are left with a lovely ground bait that is going to sink straight to the bottom. I prepared the night before a session or match.*

**MICROS** - *I then like to use the Dynamite F1 sweet micros not only to match the ground bait but because of how easy they are to prepare and again I've found the fish love them. I simply pore in the chosen amount I think I'm going to use, cover them in water for 2 mins, drain the water off and within 15 minutes they are perfect and ready to go. With them being so easy and quick to prepare I like to do them on the bank as they are fresh and ready.*

**EXPANDERS** - *Again very simple to prepare. I like to use a old flask, I tip my chosen amount of expander all different sizes, I then cover them in ice cold water and put in a few ice cubes and place them in the fridge over night, the reason for this is because you are then left with a firm pellet that is going to last longer on the hook and easier to hook.*

*I also had some live maggots, Sonubaits F1 sweet corn which I really like, not only the smell, but the quality of the grains of corn. You can hook them really well. Hard pellets, meat, bread, paste and hemp completed my options.*

**HOW THE MATCH WENT** *The whistle went at 9:30 and immediately went straight down the edge, I started by potting in a medium size cad pot full of micros and sitting over the top with a 6mm expander and within around 2 minutes the float shot under, I couldn't believe it however it wasn't the stamp I was really after, however I off the mark and feeling confident. I repeated the process again and it went even quicker, this time being a bit bigger, and I managed to get two more again back to back. I then repeated the process and the float was left motionless, it was like someone had just turned off a switch as I went from having a fish a chuck and thinking I had some sort of rhythm to suddenly nothing. With this I fed another pot full of micros and went out on the 13.5m line fishing the exact same way and had one fish pretty much straight away and within 5-10 mins later I had another and at this point I was convinced I was leading the match however after that last fish I couldn't seem to get a bite. I was trying everything back down the edge back out long on the short line but absolutely nothing was happening but everyone was in the same boat it seemed the whole lake had just switched off for some reason. I was putting in small volumes of micros and ground bait in different areas of water I had in front of me hoping to maybe get a fish on one of the lines and keep rotating however it just did not happen. I did have a couple of missed bites so I shallowed up a bit, but nothing happened. I could see people starting to catch the odd fish here and there but it was very tricky. At around 12:30 I fed my edge with a pot full of groundbait and the other with micros and left them to settle for about an hour. In the mean time nothing to report. I had nothing until the last 15 mins when I lost two fish in quick succession.*

*At 2:30pm the match came to an end, and what a challenging day it had been. I ended up weighing 21lbs 10ozs which placed me 9th out 21 anglers. The match was won with 44lbs 2ozs from peg 1. Second had 41lbs 6ozs from peg 2, and third place weighed in 30lbs 9ozs from peg 11.*

*On reflection I should have set up a shallow rig or maybe taken a feeder rod, but its easy to be wise after the event. Although there is always next time.*





# Jim's Journey

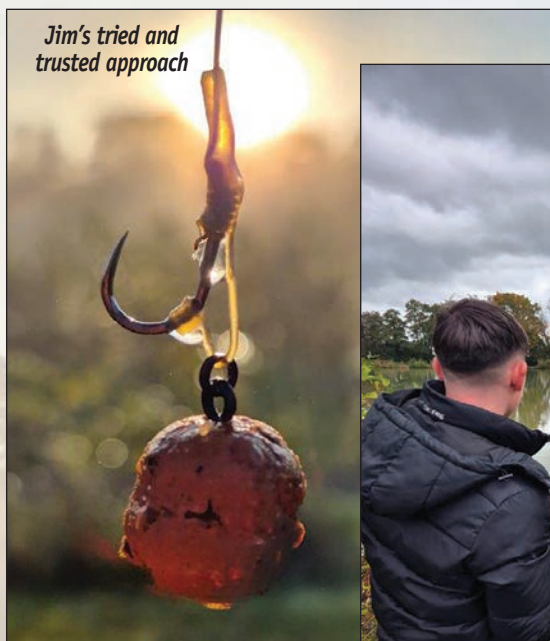
## A Cosy Retreat at Colts Hill Glamping Pods: Fishing at Tricklebrook Fishery

As the chill of autumn set in, we decided to switch things up for our latest fishing adventure, opting for the comfort of a Colts Hill Glamping Pod at Tricklebrook Fishery. These timber pods, located on the banks of the New Specimen Lake, offer cosy accommodations for 2-4 people and even feature a log-fired hot tub. A midweek break was just what we needed, especially as Dad was keen to use up some holiday leave.

Upon arrival, we were warmly welcomed by hosts Andy and Katey, who showed us to Kingfisher Pod (Pod 6). This pod is perfectly positioned opposite an island with reed-lined margins—an idyllic spot for fishing. With the swim choice made for us due to the pod's location, we approached our setup a little differently this time. While I observed the water for signs of activity, Dad prepared our nets and weigh mats at the dipping tank—a must to prevent the spread of KHV, which has been a concern in some areas.



Fishery facilities include well maintained bio-security measures



Jim's tried and trusted approach



Jim plays a large carp to the net

### Settling in and casting out

I decided to fish the left-hand side of our swim, targeting the island and a nearby bay where I'd spotted some movement along the margins. Dad took the right-hand side, casting a mesh bag of crushed OG fish and pellets to the end of the island, steering clear of autumn leaves. While setting my rods, I noticed a patch of recurring bubbles in open water, which seemed too good an opportunity to pass up.

Once our rods were positioned, we scattered a small amount of bait and tidied up our swim and pod. Fishing somewhere new always comes with



The first fish from a new water is always welcome

uncertainties, but sticking to my tried-and-tested approach paid off. Within no time, my right-hand rod burst into life and I landed a spirited double figure carp. A great way to start our session.

### Perch fishing success

We also tried our hand at perch fishing, having stocked up on maggots and Dendrobaenas from the Fish On tackle shop en route. Using a simple float setup, I caught several small perch, while Dad opted for a ledgering approach. Over the course of a few hours, we landed more than ten perch weighing over 1lb 8ozs, including my new PB of 1lb 9ozs - a milestone I was thrilled to achieve!



If carp aren't your thing, there are plenty of specimen sized perch to keep you occupied



## A comfortable evening

As the light faded, we prepared our carp rods for the night and enjoyed a delicious Indian takeaway delivered to the pod. The cosy warmth of the pod made a big difference on a chilly evening, giving us a chance to relax and recharge. With everything tidied up and a quick shower, I settled in, hopeful that the alarms would soon sound.

## Morning glory

The night passed quietly, but at 7am, my open-water rod screamed into action. After a strong fight and a few dramatic runs, I landed an incredible looking heavily scaled mirror of 21lbs 10ozs carp - another "twenty" to my growing tally, and a superb example of the quality of fish on offer at Tricklebrook. Over the past five months, I've managed to catch over 20 carp exceeding 20lbs - a streak that Dad reminds me is exceptional. By comparison, he's had more smaller carp this year but fewer big ones, which goes to show how much luck plays a role in which fish picks up your bait. With all the weighing and pictures taken I returned the fish back to its watery home.



*This heavily scaled mirror of 21lbs 10ozs was the best of the trip - but they go much bigger...*

## Tips for a Successful Visit

- 1. Plan Your Gear:** Although the pods come equipped with essentials like beds and cooking facilities, bring your own towels and personal fishing gear.
- 2. Disinfect Your Equipment:** Use the on-site dipping tank to clean your nets, weigh mats, and slings to protect the fishery from potential infections.
- 3. Pack for Variety:** While carp fishing is the main attraction, bring tackle for perch fishing - you might land a PB!
- 4. Book Midweek for Tranquillity:** Midweek stays are quieter and give you more time to focus on your fishing.
- 5. Check Out the Café:** The on-site café serves hearty breakfasts and snacks - a great way to start your day.

## Plan Your Stay

Colts Hill Glamping Pods at Tricklebrook Fishery offer an excellent blend of comfort and fantastic fishing opportunities. Whether you're a seasoned angler or just looking for a relaxing break with a rod in hand, this venue promises a memorable experience.



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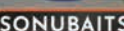
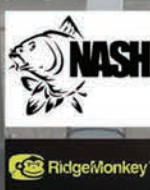


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**[www.lintonangling.co.uk](http://www.lintonangling.co.uk)**

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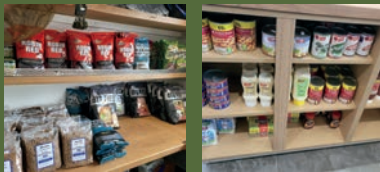
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Mitch - 17lbs 4ozs Common - Danson Park



Ben Goshawk - Common Carp - Frogmore Fishery



Peter North - 48lbs 2ozs Mirror - North Lake, Elphicks



Callum Ireland - 30lbs 11ozs Carp - Prairie, Elphicks

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Andy Kemp - Mirror Carp - Maisies Lake, Wylands



Mark Day - Pike - River Stour



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## 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](mailto: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 INFORMER** 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.

### MATT MAKES IT LOOK EASY

Any angler worth their salt knows that the enjoyment of fishing should be measured in far more than just pounds and ounces. Big fish are nice, classic looking fish are better, and big, classic looking fish are best of all.



Especially if you can consistently catch them across different venues, something that **Matt Almeida** is proving himself capable of over the last month, and making him a worthy winner of this month's competition.



Tony Lodge - 25lbs Carp - Surrenden Lakes



Darren Batholomew - 28lbs Common - Frant Lakes



Damon Scott - Common Carp - Grovehurst Lakes



Joyce Blackwell - 1lb 15ozs Roach - Pebsham Lake



Zoe Webb - Common Carp - Cottington Lakes



Steve Carden - Specimen Tench - Local Water



# TROUT INFORMER



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Trout fishing at Tenterden has been good throughout November with quality Rainbows being caught. A couple of our anglers landed two Brownies weighing 3lbs and 5lbs which were kindly returned to Lake 3.

All of this adds to a good experience here and the Trout are fighting well. Popular patterns have been Hares Ear, Blue Flash Damsel, Coopers Yellow and Montana. We have 3 lakes (5 acres of water) fully stocked with Rainbows, Browns & Blues. We offer Catch/Keep, Catch/Release permits for full day, half day and evening. We have a comfortable Fishery Lodge with all the amenities you require and where you can make a cuppa with our compliments. Please call or email to book your fishing.

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*We thank all our Anglers & Fishery Friends for their support throughout 2024 and wish everyone a very happy festive season. We look forward to welcoming you over the Christmas holidays for great fishing downtime enjoying your sport.*

*Tight Lines, Gaynor, Richard & Audrey.*





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

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

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

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

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*Andy Lush  
- The Friendly Fisherman*

## Return to Mequinenza

*In the early 2000's James Gardner and I were regular visitors to Mequinenza and the river Ebro. Our first trip there was in the company of Luke Moffatt, our catfish guru and mentor. Each spring after that initial trip, we travelled to fish for the huge catfish that inhabited the river. We weren't alone either as specimen hunters from all over Europe were attracted to the area too. Several angling companies set up guiding business's in Mequinenza, and that's how we met Gary Allen, my friend and angling legend.*

### NOVEMBER 2024

This trip to Spain was a birthday and Christmas present for my son Adam. We rarely fish together, so this was going to be quite different. As we prepared to leave home the tragic floods that hit Valencia were all over the news. So it was with some trepidation that we drove through torrential rain, up the motorway to Mequinenza from Barcelona.

As we drove into the village the memories came flooding back. I hadn't been here in over ten years. My son Adam and I had arranged to meet Gary for a beer or two, and to discuss our angling prospects. This trip was going to be something different for me, we were going carp fishing! The initial idea was to fish from a boat, something that Gary has perfected, and something I was keen to learn. However with so much rain the previous week, the water was being run off, which scotched that idea immediately.

#### Where to start?

Gary's guests the previous week had been carp fishing too, which gave us some up to date information. With the rivers flow fluctuating daily, they had to adapt to the extreme conditions, while enduring extreme weather. Despite everything they did succeed in catching some good carp, which was encouraging.

First thing we needed to do was to get a fishing licence, and a fishing permit. Fortunately these were readily available in the local tackle shop. It was like stepping back in time as we entered the small shop, it was stuffed to the rafters with all manner of lures, and all the very latest carp tackle! Which only goes to show how popular the river is, and that it's not just catfish that anglers are now fishing for!



*This is why we travelled to the Ebro all those years ago*



*The view from the cliffs swim, not your usual carp swim*

#### Methods and tactics

You are only allowed to fish with two rods, so Gary's would to be shared between Adam and myself. We were using 12ft 3lb test curve rods, paired with 'baitrunner' reels, loaded with 15lb line. Our end tackle was a simple but effective 'blow back' rig, tied with a 'line aligner' on long shank size 8 hook. Two 16mm bottom baits were placed on the hair, with a small PVA bag containing a few 'juiced up' baits which completed our set up. By the way, it's 'days only' fishing on the river, and this is strictly enforced, so you need to be well organised at setting up and packing away efficiently.



*Old school bite detection, when your batteries are dead!*



## DAY 1

Gary took us downriver to the 'cliff' swim. Our position, perched on top of the high bank gave us a 'birds eye' view of the river. Gary had seen carp showing here a few days previously, so this was why we were here. We could clearly see the after effects of the previous weeks rain. It was no surprise the river was running hard and dirty, with branches, bamboo canes, and weed floating downstream. Directly opposite us, where the Cinca and Segre, two smaller rivers merge with the mighty Ebro, we could see a 'tide line', that fortunately was hugging the far bank.

We spent at least half an hour getting everything ready, while watching the river for any signs of carp. Much to our relief we did see a few, which fortunately were within our casting range. Two rods were positioned downstream along the marginal shelf, just off the rocky shore, two more were staggered across the flow, while the last two were cast upstream, again at staggered distances. This gave us a good spread, we felt confident that any carp swimming our side of the river would find one of our baits. Every few hours we had to re-cast, after our rods were wiped out by the accumulated weed. We fed a few free baits via a throwing stick after each re-cast, hoping to draw a bite. The day slipped by without a fish, but the time had passed quickly. We swapped fishy stories about adventures past and present.

## DAY 2

An early start, Gary was keen to secure the 'hot swim' from the previous week, where his clients had fished. Most importantly, the swim had seen regular amounts of bait throughout the previous week, so there was a chance some fish would still be in the area? Pre-baiting, or feeding large amounts of bait is not allowed, but the regulations do change frequently, so be aware if you fancy fishing here.



*Adam's first carp, showing signs of a 'close encounter' of the catfish kind*

The swim was actually a boat mooring which made it a comfortable spot to fish. Gary's and my rods were cast upstream. Gary cast his into a small sheltered bay, just off the main current. Mine were cast up and across the flow, while Adam's were cast downstream, across the current at staggered distances and allowed to swing into position on the drop-off.

## DAY 3

The upstream rods needed re-casting regularly, as the build up of weed was a problem, dragging my rigs out of position. The up-side was, each time I re-cast, I was introducing fresh PVA bags of 'juiced up' baits. We hoped any marauding carp would be attracted to this scent trail. Adam was first into action with two screaming runs that produced two hard fighting 'wild' commons, the best weighing 27lbs. These fish lead a hard life, where 'only the fittest survive'. They have to fight the current constantly, and

survive the attentions of catfish. By the way, the Ebro catfish have grown a lot bigger since I last fished here, fish in excess of 200lbs swim in these waters! As the day progressed more carp fell to Adam's rods, which only goes to show he's a far better carp angler than me. I did manage a consolation fish before the day ended, which saved my blushes!



*One angry 'new strain' common*

We had noticed several 'carp shows' behind the pathway, the previous day. So Gary cast his two rods into the far margin, just

short of the tree-line. My rods were again cast upstream, but with more space, I positioned them directly upstream, in an effort to reduce the weed problem. Adam's rods were again cast downstream, one across the flow, the other parallel to the drop off. Unsurprisingly Gary's rods drew most of the bites. Adam and I took it in turn to share the fish. We landed several carp, some of which were sporting battle scares from close encounters with catfish, or cormorants. However a couple were 'scale perfect' specimens which Gary was sure weren't born in the river. He believes these are left over live baits, that had been released, years ago when live baiting was allowed. These carp, bought from fish farms are a completely different shape, and look like they are going to grow very large in the future.



*Early morning start at the boat moorings*



*Gazza nets another 'back bay' carp*

*To be continued...*

*... Until next month, Merry Christmas, and tight lines in the New Year! Andy Lush*



# Junior Informer



## JUNIOR COMPETITION

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### Oliver is all around



Truth be told, most months our panel of judges have a hard time agreeing on our Junior Informer Competition Winners. Different judges look for different things when handing out prizes, leading to protracted discussions. This month there was no such issue. First we received a report from **Hawkhurst Fish Farm** featuring a young angler who had landed a 56lbs catfish from their Main Lake. Then a report from the angler himself with a 20lbs carp from **Elphicks**, and soon after, another report of the same young man landing a 48lbs Catfish, after a 40min fight on 10lb line and feeder tackle, from **Lucks Lake**. Step forward 15-year old **Oliver Carr** and congratulations both on catching such an impressive string of big fish and getting the all around vote of our panel. We have no doubt that the **Sussex Bait Developments** bait package will see you continue in a similar vein.



### Ollie's out in all weather

There's no doubt that 7-year old **Ollie Gates** enthusiasm for fishing puts many more experienced anglers to shame. With the weather on the turn, many a fisherman might be forgiven for picking a day in front of the telly over time on the bank, but this didn't stop Ollie, and Dad Wayne, from heading to **Frant Lakes** in search of some late season action. And what a good decision it proved to be with young Ollie banking numerous Carp to a very impressive 13lbs 2ozs. If Ollie's enthusiasm can continue into the winter, we are sure that he can get some great tips from **Carl Smith's** book 'The Simple Fishing Guidebook' on which species to target at the coldest time of year.



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Charlie Challinor - 3lbs Common Carp - Secret Lake



Hudson Scott - Common Carp - Grovehurst Lake



Jack Palin - Common Carp - Kent Lake



Oscar Ede - Common Carp - Local Water



Joseph Leroy - 6lbs Bream - with help from Victor



Riley Williams - 34lbs Catfish - Hawkhurst Fish Farm



Freddie Collier - PB 26lbs 8ozs Carp - Tricklebrook



Tommy Armour - Specimen Perch - Tricklebrook



Joel Parsons - 5lbs Carp - Longshaw Farm



Fin Brinklow - Common Carp - Hawkhurst Fish Farm



Finlay Welch - 9lbs Carp - Quarry Lake, Hawkhurst



Jayden Read - PB 2lbs 8ozs Perch - Knightingales



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# December update

by instructor Warren White



## Method Feeder fished short on corn

The venue we use for our Monday Rowhill school fishing group is Shorne country park, Gravesend, which is run by the T.W.A.P.S angling club. As this angling course involves doing an angling qualification this venue has the amenities needed, two good fishing lakes and an indoor facility to do our paperwork towards the course. Shorne is a good place to teach juniors how to fish as it has a wide range of fish species and, apart from winter conditions, is always good for catching fish. There are two lakes at the venue, the Long lake, and the Steps lake. Although the Long lake is heavily weeded and the Steps lake looks a picture, I personally prefer fishing on the Long lake, there is something special about fishing a weeded lake and wondering what fish live amongst the weeds. Although I call them lakes, they are more like ponds, both being under 0.7 of an acre.

When coaching on the Long lake a good method, especially when teaching youngsters, is a Whip as there are a lot of silver fish and small Tench and crucians in the lake. So, whip fishing is an ideal choice, but this lake is the sort of water that does spring a surprise specimen from time to time. One thing I do customise when using a whip is to elasticate the top section of the whip, which gives



*Ollie with a nice mirror carp*

you more chance if you do hook a bigger fish. One big advantage of the Whip over rod and reel when teaching young people, is by having no reel when whip fishing. This eliminates all the tangles associated with youngsters when they first start fishing, and it is a good way of teaching basic float fishing. To get youngsters interested in fishing I normally sell an elasticated Whip with a Float rig for a tenner, so for a starter kit, it is a cheap way of getting into fishing.

On the recent school break I decided to have a session on my own to see if I could catch a carp. At this time of the year, its not a fish we would normally be fishing for, as normally we would be fishing for silver fish, although we have caught the odd carp by mistake when whip fishing for silvers. A good reason while we normally fish for silvers with my school groups is the sessions are short so I would prefer the students to catch a few silvers, learning the skills of unhooking etc, than waiting all the session sitting behind a rod waiting for a bite. The Long lake, being small and really weeded, most anglers would say the best method would be to float fish, but on this occasion, I wanted to try something different, and the aim was to catch a carp, regardless of the size.

Some years ago, if I remember rightly the club did a survey on the lake and found out there was too many fish in the lake. The

more carp there are, the more competition there is for food. This leads to there being less food for each carp, which leads to slower growth and smaller average size. With this evidence the club removed some of the bigger carp in the lake. Nowadays it is thought the bigger carp go up to 10lb.

I opted to ledger using a heavy feeder rod and 10lb main line, using a small method feeder with Krill micro pellets around it, with corn on a hair rigged quick stop. On its day corn is a terrific bait at this venue. On the day I fished it, I had the lake to myself and opted for a margin swim that I knew. It was quite weeded but had a nice clear, deep, spot which would be easy to cast too. My method of fishing looked really unorthodox, I was going to fish 10ft from the bank, method feeder style, on a small heavily weeded lake. But what gave me confidence that I had a chance of catching, was the conditions on the day, overcast, mild and importantly the lake water clarity had some colour. A week before the lake water clarity was clear, which is the kiss of death for fishing. The first thing I did when getting to my peg was to feed some 6ml pellets into the swim, which I could easily do underarm.

On my first cast I aimed to get the method feeder as tight to the weed as I could. It helped that the corn hook bait was pushed into the pellets around the method feeder as it had no chance of getting the hook bait stuck in the weed on cast. It was then just a matter of time waiting to see whether the quiver tip in front of me, would spring into life. After around 20 minutes I had an unmissable bite that saw the quiver tip arch over. The fish did try to run into the weed but, being the weed is mainly a soft floating weed, I soon got control of the fish, and the first fish was in the net. Then after that I had a flurry of more carp. The tactics were after each fish caught, to feed another handful of pellets and, because my swim had two clear spots in the weed, I alternated casts into each spot as I felt I could pick off the fish from both spots instead of too much disturbance in one area.



*Ollie with a nice mirror carp*



I finished a short session with four mirror carp and one fish that looked like a crucian but had fantails. Nothing big, but on the day, I had found a way to catch a carp. I had to get my skates on, because since the clocks went back, the country park now shut at 4.30pm.

On the first session back at school, fishing on the Long lake at Shorne, one of the students chose to try the same tactic. The method feeder fished short with corn and on a short 90-minute session, managed to catch a carp as well. After a dogged fight on the same session as we were packing up, a lad fishing the waggler in another swim using maggot, hooked something that was not a silver fish and after a good fight a nice crucian carp nestled in his landing net and a nice way to finish the session.

I have found the best way to attach a kernel of corn, hair rigged style, is to push the quick stop through the roundish top of the corn, in the middle, then push down through to the other end of corn, and you'll find the quick stop fits snugly into the opening of the corn. In this way I have confidence that the corn will stay on in any conditions. Also, in the winter months when you only need a few grains of corn for a day's feeder fishing, I don't like to open a new tin of corn every time I go fishing, as most of it gets wasted. Once a week at home, I like a bowl of chicken and noodle soup, I am not a lover of the sweet corn, so I tend to transfer the corn (around 15 pieces of corn) and flavoured as well, into a small container, put it in the fridge and then use the corn throughout the week for my fishing.

**A visit to our Choice Support Centres in Dartford and Footscray**



*CS Footscray - 1st and 3rd places*



*CS Dartford - 2nd place*

Representing Fishing 4 Schools, I recently visited two of our Mental health fishing groups, Choice Support Footscray and Choice Support Dartford, to present them with their prizes for this year's Art competition. While our fishing sessions go in in the summer these groups take pride in entering some wonderful Artwork. It was lovely to meet up with all my friends from the two centres and see where all the creativity magic is made.

One final point, with Christmas just around the corner, one question I regularly get asked by parents of young people I coach is "I want to buy my child a rod and reel, what do you suggest?" All good tackle shops will be able to offer advice and have a selection of reasonably priced starter kits. I can particularly recommend the Tackle Box in Dartford who sponsor our work at Fishing 4 Schools and are always happy to help young anglers get started in our great sport.



*CS Footscray*



*CS Footscray*



*CS Dartford*

*Hoping everyone has a Merry Christmas*



# Fishing 4 Schools – The Year in Review

## by Bob Gobles



***It's been a while since writing articles for the Informer but I'm guessing many I know will remember the Fishing 4 Schools tips that appeared in the magazine some time back.***

It is late November as I write and not too cold outside, remembering times past when ice and snow abound and continued well past Christmas for many weeks. The talk these days is of climate change, the planet warming up etc, but I'm not totally convinced. Can we believe politicians? Is it scare mongering?

Maybe you have ideas, but the jury is out with me, I will leave that one with you.

The fishing of late has improved immensely especially trout fishing. With the cooling water, trout will be eager to feed and provide good sport. I would suggest using lure patterns, like Cats whisker, Viva, Taddies, Blobs, Booby and Minkie, but any fish imitating pattern with lots of movement. All our Trout fisheries will be fishing well and of course my home fishery Bewl Water, which has come alive after a warm summer and the fish laying deep to keep cool. But there have been fish caught but not in great numbers. The any method guys have been doing the business with Spinner and especially Float and baits, catching well throughout, but now it's the fly guys that will catch as well.



This time of year should provide good fishing from the banks, but be aware it is muddy with the water level quite a way down due to the ongoing work on the dam wall, but hopefully finishing soon. Remember to wear wellies or waders and warm clothing and a hot drink, but of course there are boats to hire.



The fishing for schools' team have had another brilliant year. Although the sessions have finished for the winter period, we have now more coaches that have come on-board to cover the demand with schools, with all aspects be it Coarse, Fly and some sea fishing. The coarse fishing has been excellent with all the venues that offer us the sessions for a little cost and the students have had a ball catching. If you ask the teachers on their behaviour, they are over the moon.

Also, what a delight they have been to teach, we as

coaches often ask the students what they like most from fishing, and typical answers come back as follows; with a quote from one student... *"It calms me down, take time to enjoy the environment watching a float, anticipating it to go under. It feels good with my mental health, also the quietness and wildlife are awesome".*

### ***It's nice to know fishing works!***

Not forgetting the mental health groups that also come on board. All of the students also have a go at Fly fishing for the Carp. They can't believe what they are seeing when a carp comes up to the surface feeding on a scattering of small dog biscuits, slurping and sucking.



The rods are set up with a dog biscuit imitation made from deer hair and trimmed and fashioned around a strong short, shanked hook (Barbless) the size of a 10 or 8, you can get the carp to come in close with a little stealth. All you need to do is roll cast the imitation into the feeding mayhem and hold on. The take is explosive and if not careful can break you off. The students can't believe the sheer power of these running fish and sometimes it can take 20 minutes to net the rubber lipped monster, they love it and always want more. Roll on Next year, I believe applications have now been filled and I hope your school is in the running, if not there is always next year. Don't forget that these courses are free to schools, but donations are always appreciated.



***Some thank you's: Hadlow College, and Brian Bailey the fishery manager for all he does for the schools. Thameside Works Angling Club for the great venue of Shorne Wood Country Park Lakes which is a marvellous place to learn. The Tackle Box at Dartford who support and sponsor with tackle items and baits, very grateful. Monk Lakes Marden near Maidstone who provide a great venue for a lot of different species of fish. Also to Charles Jardine our director for F4S, whose passion began all this quite a few years ago. And, not forgetting, the Fishing 4 Schools Team - Rock on FISHING 4 SCHOOLS.***

***A quote from a film I love - A River Runs Through It  
"I am haunted by water!"***



# The Golden Years of Coarse Fishing

by Bob Rolph

## Legends of the 60's - No.9

### Jack Hilton (The Master) 1927-1997

*As I approach the conclusion of my series of articles in the Freshwater Informer, after over 5 years of memoirs from the 1960s. I thought that I should go out on a high, by recalling the fishing life of one of the greats of our sport, Jack Hilton, who only took up serious big fish angling in 1958 when he was in his 30's.*

His main hobby during his 20's was motor cycle scrambling, and earlier fishing the River Lea for anything that came along, like roach, dace, chub and small barbel. He was an army parachutist at one time, before he took to serious 'specimen hunting'.

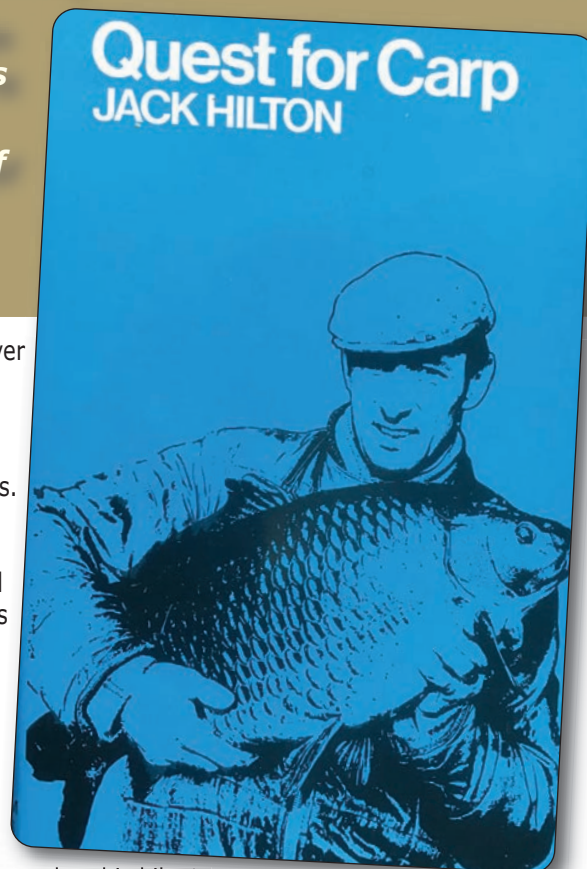
Growing up in Hertfordshire near to Cheshunt Reservoir and Hoddesden, and to numerous fellow mentors who were to shape his short fishing life of less than 20 years. For 15 years he hardly picked up a rod after his mid teens, until reading the books of Dick Walker and BB, rekindled his interest in fishing when he was 31 years of age. He met Roy Wicks, Kenny Ewington and a young Frank Gutfeld in 1958 and they started to fish for wild common carp at a lake called 'The Chalk Pit', where they had numerous fish of 5-8lbs on potato and bread baits. Fishing with Frank he also took his first big carp of 16 and 17lbs from another local water, and a 20lbs carp from Withy Pool in Bedfordshire in 1960. But it wasn't carp that Jack first became hooked on, it was in fact Tench, when in 1958 to 1962 he and Frank fished at Southill Park lake in Bedfordshire for the bags of quality fish that this former estate lake was famous for.

Southill Park was laid out in 1777 by the famous landscape gardener Capability Brown, and the 37 acre lake was formed as part of the estate, and was once owned by the Whitbread Family. It was a day ticket water during the 1960s, the bailiff came round on his bike to collect the 2/6 each morning (12p today). It was full of weed, quite shallow, but full of Tench and Rudd. I fished it 3 times in 1965 from the curved concrete Dam on one side of the lake. I caught good sized tench, but it was Jack and Frank Gutfeld that immortalised the place as 'Twitcherlot Pool' in the 1964 book 'In Search of Big Fish', using cockles and mussels as bait. Franks 1962 season was recorded in this book as a diary, and it became a best seller. All the greats of the time fished here, and 5lbs Tench were commonplace. In those days a 5lbs Tench was the fish to aim for, equivalent to a 10lbs fish today! Jack fished with Frank here, and for Pike at Owls Pit in Essex, long before he started out on the carp trail, it's all recorded in the classic 1964 book.

They started the Herts Specimen Group with Pete Frost, Bill Keal, and Alec Lewis and were joined by an Irishman called Bill Quinlan, with whom Jack struck up a lifelong friendship. Come 1964 and they were in Kent, carp fishing at one of the first syndicate pits at Sundridge near Sevenoaks, where the lake was still being worked by day, and the carp were formally stocked by a local man called Fred Spice who lived nearby. The carp moved into the freshly dug margins at night to feed on the disturbed grubs and worms etc.

July 31st 1964 (one month after passing my driving test, 12 lessons £12) ! I was there too, fishing next to Jack and Bill, and a very young prodigy of theirs Roger Smith. Spicers carp lake as it became known was on a local council rubbish dump and depot, and lorry's came and went all day, and gravel digging took place from 8am to 4pm. But in the evening and at night, all was quiet and the carp angler appeared as if by magic to set up his pitch on the stark sides of this freshly dug sand and gravel pit. No bivvies in those day, we hadn't invented them yet, just a lean too tent over a couple of forked sticks, a pump up brass Primus stove, a few stores and a bag of potatoes, worms and a few loaves.

My green A35 Van was down there most Saturday nights during the summer of 1964, but Jack and Bill were present far more regularly than me, and they began to catch carp to 15lbs at night, and tried to show me the ropes. I had only just started serious carp fishing at Snodland lakes, and was keen to learn from the 'Master' as Roger Smith used to call him, over a freshly brewed cup of tea made for us all by Jack Hilton.



1967 - Jack's first twenty pounder at 28lbs 12ozs





**Jack and Roger Smith preparing to tackle Redmire**

or after 3am, parking on the cinder track and coming in off Powder Mill Lane. We never actually did 'all nighters', so that was OK in our book, as we all had jobs to go to during the day. Jack, Bill and Roger started their 'Goodwood' campaign in 1965 in short visits from north London before or after their landscape gardening work during the day. They both worked for Jack in his business, so they worked together and fished together for years in his Redmire Landscapes firm, then fished together for carp at night, mainly off the causeway swims on both sides, before leaving about 7 am to get through London in the Blackwall tunnel. No bridge in those days! Jack's 15cwt Thames van contained all the rods already made up in the back, and they appeared every morning about 3am to unload and start their short stints, fishing with bread and potato baits. I was there too, so I saw it all going on the comings and goings every day throughout the summer months. The carp they caught were astonishing for the time. 56 doubles to over 20lbs, by July 1967, they fished 5 times a week, before Grahame and I could get a look in, then we only managed a handful of carp, fishing the same area.

All the members of my Kent Group fished there too over the years, Ron Blackmore, Ken Rowley, Keith Dickens, Ron Gould, Steve Edwards and John Kane, but it was a very young Grahame Igglesden who finally got into the mind of Jack Hilton, to see how it was all done. No one could touch Jack at Brooklands, not even Gerry Savage, and Grahame began to pick up tips from Jack and started catching fish, good sized mirror carp fishing next to Jack. Jack took him under his wing and invited him to join his proposed syndicate to fish at Redmire Pool in 1967.



**Jack's Redmire forty - and biggest fish**

I never stuck with it at Spicers, my £10 season ticket was not very productive, and I moved over on to Barbel fishing on the Avon, where again I met up with Jack and Bill fishing the Pipe Bridge Swim on the Royalty fishery at Christchurch. Whatever Jack touched it turned to gold, be it double figure Avon Barbel, 2lbs plus Stour Roach, 5lbs Southill Tench, 20lbs owls pit Pike, 7lbs Chub, and soon to come, Carp to die for!!

My next encounter with Jack Hilton was again in Kent, at Dartford, where my old mate Grahame Igglesden and I fished along side him at Brooklands Lake, nicknamed Goodwood at the time, by Jack, in the early mornings of 1965 and 66. Carp fishing was becoming big in Kent during the mid 1960s at places like Horton Kirby, Sutton, Darenth, Snodland, Faversham and Dartford, and groups like my Kent group, Bob Morris and his mates from Dartford, and the Herts Group were fishing midweek nights at all the famous local waters. Gerry Savage was the man at Brooklands, but it was Jack, Bill and Roger Smith who revolutionised carp fishing at Dartford's D.D.A.P.S. Water .

Officially there was no night fishing on this old, but well stocked 'Double' pit, with that causeway in between, but no one took much notice of this 60 years ago, and we all fished till midnight



**36lbs 10ozs of Redmire history - 1972**

Grahame and I had recently returned from Redmire Pool, where we saw that all the huge carp had not perished in the winter ice of 1963, as most had feared, and Grahame and Jack hatched a plan to visit Redmire in 1967 and fish for those monsters that we saw, then in Sept Jack caught the biggest carp of the season in the pouring rain.

During 1966 and 67 after our 'rediscovery' of Redmire Pool on April 17th 1965, the editor of Creel magazine, John Nixon took over the running of the fishery, and invited the members of the 16 or so 'specimen groups' around the country to fish there for £1 per day or £5 for the week. Max 4 anglers per day, as now. I took advantage of this offer, and so did Jack Hilton, Grahame Igglesden, Roger Smith and Mike Mintram. The 4 of them had the 3rd week of September 1967 down there, and Jack caught the 8th largest carp ever caught, and the largest of the year. An incredible common carp of 35lbs in the pouring rain. It came from the very same spot 'Greenbanks' where I had spied it from the tree tops 2 years previously feeding in the shallows. This massive fish, the largest of that season, started a chain reaction in carp fishing circles and among the ever-growing army of budding carp anglers, culminating on June 16th 1980 when Chris Yates broke the record down there with a mirror carp of 51lbs 8ozs. This fish had been caught many times before at lesser weights, by Roger Bowskill, Tom Mintram, Eddie Price and Bob Jones. Grahame photographed Jack's 35lbs common, and it became legendary.



Jack Hilton continued to fish Redmire Pool and Ashlea Pool during the late 1960s and early 1970s later running the syndicate with a rod of iron from 1968-1975. He landed over 20 carp of over 20lbs including a monster fish of 40lbs and 3 over 30. He was the first to catch such fish in a single season, and was revered in the angling press of the time. Bill Quinlan also had big fish down there, but neither Grahame, Roger, Mike or myself were fortunate or skilful enough to capture a double figure fish ourselves. Jack's name was synonymous with Redmire Pool and he wrote about his exploits there in the Angling Newspapers of the time, and in his book *Quest for Carp*. He even named his house and landscape gardening company after Redmire, and once spent over 16 weeks at a time at the now infamous lake trying to catch the record carp. He was convinced that there was a 70lb in there, and believed that he had seen it. He was the first person to catch 4 carp over 30lbs in the 1970s.



*The young apprentice, Grahame Igglesden - aged 19*

Jehovah's Witness, questioning the general ethics of catching and returning fish. Jehovah means God or Jesus, and Jack found solace from it all and studied the bible avidly in the 20 years before he sadly died in 1997 aged 70, from Leukaemia. It's hard to believe that this legendary figure of our sport is nearing his centenary in 3 years time. He always was the elder statesman of his groups, in 1967 at Redmire, Grahame, Mike and Roger were just teenagers when Jack was their 'Master' at 40 years of age. Roger Smith always called him that, as they were all in awe of him. His only book '*Quest for Carp*' 1972, is a lasting legacy to a master angler and human being. His son Keith who frequently accompanied his father on trips to Redmire when he was a young boy, has now taken up the mantle and catches carp to order just like his father, and mentor, did.



*One of many of Jack's specimen carp*

Jack was a very quiet, thinking angler, developing much in the way of rods and tackle for the specimen hunter. In May 1962 he teamed up with Don Niesh

(Dons of Edmonton) to produce a range of the new hollow fibre glass 11 foot carp rods called the 10/10 Goddess range marketed by D.A.M. and Alan Brown of Hitchin. He also produced a range of carp hooks based on a loop eyed salmon hook, cut and soldered on the shaft, and built numerous famous landing nets and poles. We were using these salmon hooks for catfish in 1968, cut and modified with solder, and also the Dons 'Golden Goddess' trout rod blanks for our fishing on the midlands reservoirs at that time. All built at home with fittings from Alan Brown, Walkers of Hythe or Oliver's of Knebworth.

Jack continued carp fishing right through the early 1970s from his new house in Suffolk where he also loved the River Waveney for its Roach, Chub and Barbel. He would often just walk the river at times reflecting on his life and whether fishing was the correct thing to be doing. He became very religious, and in 1976 suddenly gave up all fishing, studying the bible and becoming a

Jack's landing net pole has every carp he ever caught engraved on it, and lovingly varnished, and can be viewed at some events that Keith attends. Chris Ball used to have many of Jack's rods, where they went at auction I do not know, but these items of tackle are pivotal in the history of carp fishing in this country and must never be lost.



*A Winter caught carp from Ashlea Pool*



*More than just carp - a 2lbs River Stour roach*

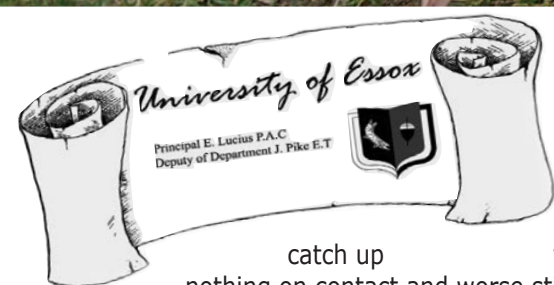


# Medway Man

## Bob Morris

**T**he festive season is upon us yet again and it seems like only a couple of months since last Christmas! It has been an unusual year, with our house renovations taking precedent over everything else which is a possible reason for this.

**A**nway, Merry Christmas and a Happy New year to all the readers of FWI and of course everyone else



catch up

nothing on contact and worse still the trace had been cut through/broken in the middle and a squiggly frayed section at the end showed me that it had been pulled through or over something sharp. There was no possibility of the 30lb bs trace being faulty as I had only made and tested it the day before and it was my standard type, extra long with a swivel at on end and a link at the other! After spending a while analysing exactly what had happened, I was left with only two possibilities. First, and most likely, some sort of tangle had occurred on the cast, this was probably made more likely by a strong crosswind that day. In this scenario the pike would pick up the mackerel head bait along with the trace and the heavy lead would then ensure that it was pulled through its jaws resulting in the trace breaking and as I knew that there were no snags of any sort present in this area, this seemed the only likely cause. I then thought of another possible reason; a fish trailing broken off tackle, possibly including a wire trace, had crossed my line and tangled up with own my terminal tackle. This would have caused the unusual take! The good thing was that my running lead would not be

I had an unusual incident the other day while out piking. I had waited a couple of hours with my deadbaits out when my buzzer sounded a couple of bleeps alerting me to some sort of activity. My float which was out at about 40yd was moving towards me quite quickly. This was strange because a substantial sized running weight was incorporated into the end tackle which meant that whatever direction the pike moved off in the float should have submerged. Anyway, it was time to react, and this took the form of rapidly winding down on the fish to

while walking backwards to increase the speed. I felt





left attached to a fish and my single barbless size 2 hook would almost certainly be easy for the pike to get rid of. I am always trying to learn lessons from my experiences and this incident reminded me that we should always try our best to cut down on the likelihood of tangles when piking. It is often difficult to come up with answers or even to assess the reasons for the problems but there are certain things I am now sure of in the piking arena.

I have found that one of the main causes of tangles on casting is the wrong ratio of weight difference between lead and bait. I tend to use relatively small baits because of my single hook approach and therefore heavy bombs 3oz plus can be a potential problem. I am not really a fan of long-range piking and try to avoid it when possible as the problems of tangling are magnified, particularly if deep water is involved and it is definitely the case that fishing into a strong head or crosswind is bad news. Having bait and lead weight of similar size (weight) means that they will keep away from each other during flight and this is a great help when using leger/float leger tactics. Another bad move is to let your tackle sink (flutter) to the bottom on a slack line; this greatly increases the risk, and I now always check the line at this point and make the bait/tackle swing down on a tight line. This stops the bait encountering the line above the lead, thus avoiding tangles. Where heavier weights are necessary, I have two main tactics to help. First is to PVA a stone to the hook or bottom of wire trace to increase its weight and the other involves freezing several small baits together but only attaching the middle one to the hook. This not only gives protection against tangles but puts a couple of freebies into your swim. It does of course mean that you always need to take your baits to the water in a freezer bag. I will let you know more about this last method in a future episode, as I have found it particularly effective. Many Pike anglers use radio-controlled bait-boats for their long-range work, and I must say that this is extremely effective and does cut out many of the tangling problems. However, I do not have one of these and have no intention of getting one – but that's a different issue.



Although I have not done as much fishing as I would like recently for various reasons, I have been out at least once a week and managed to get a few pike mainly low doubles. I have felt the urge to get back on the river after my trip to the Severn last month. The mild autumn weather is usually good for barbel, and chub and I am determined to give it a go, even though it has now got considerably colder. I did get one blank evening in on the Medway and really enjoyed it, so will be looking forward to the next session, probably this week. I am already making plans for the new year.

*Best Fishes & Seasons Greetings,  
Bob Morris*

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



Coarse Fisheries

<b>Beaver Farm Fishery</b> Eastbourne Road Newchapel, Lingfield RH7 6HL	<b>01342 324006 / 07710 656041</b>
<b>Charlies Lakes</b> Steeds Lane, Kingsnorth, Ashford TN26 1NH	<b>07857 539785</b>
<b>Chart Hill Lakes</b> Chart Hill Road, Chart Sutton ME17 3EZ	<b>07398 571337</b>
<b>Chequertree Trout and Coarse Fishery</b> Bethersden, Near Ashford TN26 3JR	<b>01233 820078</b>
<b>Coombewood Fishery</b> Redbrook Street, High Halden, Near Ashford TN26 3JH	<b>07895 679569</b>
<b>Elphicks Fisheries</b> Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden TN12 8EL	<b>01580 212512</b>
<b>Eureka Fishery</b> Nicholas Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN25 4AG	<b>07597 879621</b>
<b>Furnace Brook Fishery and Fish Farm</b> Trolliloes, Cowbeech, near Hailsham BN27 4QR	<b>01435 830835</b>
<b>Gabriels Fishery</b> Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP	<b>07730 066088</b>
<b>Greenacres Farm Fishery</b> Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden TN27 8EH	<b>07933 934942</b>
<b>Hawkhurst Fish Farm</b> Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	<b>01580 753813</b>
<b>Horam Manor Fishery</b> Horam Manor Farm, Horam TN21 0JB	<b>01323 840889 / 07707 759364</b>
<b>Horsmonden Lakes</b> Grovehurst Road, Horsmonden TN12 8BQ	<b>01892 838576</b>
<b>Iden Wood Fishery</b> Coldharbour Lane, Iden, Rye TN31 7UT	<b>01797 280180 / 07906 232225</b>
<b>Knightingales Fishery</b> Stone-In-Oxney, Near Tenterden TN30 7HA	<b>07941 176205</b>
<b>Mousehole Lakes</b> Maidstone Road Nettlestead, Near Paddock Wood ME18 5HR	<b>07725 783405</b>
<b>Orchard Place Farm Fishery</b> Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood TN12 6NY	<b>01892 838576</b>
<b>Pittlands Lakes</b> Churn Lane, Horsmonden, Paddock Wood TN12 8HL	<b>07716 065900</b>
<b>Sandwich Lakes Coarse Fishery</b> Sandwich Ash Road (A257), Near Canterbury CT3 2DA	<b>07936 409912</b>
<b>Shirkoak Fishery</b> Bethersden Road, Woodchurch, Ashford TN26 3PZ	<b>07973 410973</b>
<b>The Lakes at Beachborough</b> Beachborough Park Newington, Near Folkestone CT18 8BW	<b>07469 809877</b>
<b>Tricklebrook Fishery</b> Colts Hill, Five Oak Green TN12 6SH	<b>07743 955812</b>
<b>Willows Angling Centre</b> Bax Farm, Lower Road, Teynham ME9 9BU	<b>01795 520887</b>
<b>Wylands Farm</b> Wylands Farm, Powdermill Lane, Battle TN33 0SU	<b>01424 893394</b>

Trout Fisheries

<b>Brick Farm Lakes</b> Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux BN27 4RS	<b>01323 832615</b>
<b>Cinder Hill Fly Fishing</b> Membership available from: Email: <a href="mailto:r.nathan@btinternet.com">r.nathan@btinternet.com</a>	<b>01892 770903</b>
<b>Coltsford Mill Trout Fishery &amp; Fly Tackle Shop</b> Mill Lane, Oxted, Surrey RH8 9DG	<b>01883 715666 / 07798 605867</b>
<b>Spring Hill Trout Waters</b> Albans Farm, Romford Road, Pembury TN2 4BB	<b>07951 304515</b>
<b>Tenterden Trout Waters</b> Coombe Farm, Chennell Park Road, Tenterden TN30 6XA <a href="http://www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk">www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk</a>	<b>07880 722868</b>

Tackle & Bait Supplies

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

Angling Clubs & Societies

<b>Bromley (Kent) &amp; District AS</b> PO Box 895, East Grinstead RH19 9ND Email: <a href="mailto:bdas-kent-enquiry@bdaskent.co.uk">bdas-kent-enquiry@bdaskent.co.uk</a>	
<b>Cinder Hill Fly Fishing</b> Membership available from email: <a href="mailto:r.nathan@btinternet.com">r.nathan@btinternet.com</a>	<b>01892 770903</b>
<b>Hastings &amp; Bexhill District Freshwater Angling Association</b> Ruth Anderson (Club Secretary) on <b>07803 816668</b> or Chris Hitchens (Match Secretary) on <b>07719 610638</b> or Email: <a href="mailto:info@hastingsandbexhillangling.co.uk">info@hastingsandbexhillangling.co.uk</a>	
<b>Linton Angling Society</b> Jason Tuckey on <b>07983 569220</b> or email <a href="mailto:lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk">lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk</a>	
<b>Tonbridge &amp; District A &amp; FPS</b> For all enquiries please email: <a href="mailto:info@tonbridge-angling.co.uk">info@tonbridge-angling.co.uk</a>	<b>07570 505934</b> or contact via website <a href="http://www.wantsumaa.co.uk">www.wantsumaa.co.uk</a>



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

email: enquiries@sandwichlakes.co.uk

Sandwich  
Coarse Fishery

Visit *Sandwich Lakes* in 2024

Tel: 07936 409912

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

### *Our unrivalled facilities include:*

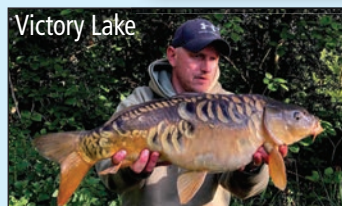
A waterside cafe serving hot and cold food and drinks  
Ladies and gents toilets • Plenty of free parking  
On site tackle shop for bait and tackle • Rod hire

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

### *The lakes:*

**VICTORY LAKE** (1 rod £12.50) a specimen water of two acres with interesting island features and lily pads in the margins. Stocked with commons and mirrors to 35lbs along with ghost carp, tench, roach, rudd and specimen perch. Night fishing by prior booking available.

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



Victory Lake



Berry Lake



Damson Match Lake



Meadow Lake

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

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

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

### *Day Ticket Prices:*

1 rod - £8    2 rods - £10    Family Ticket (2 adults and 2 children) - £25    Under 16s - £7    Sundowner (3pm to 7pm) - £7  
Rod hire (includes seat hire & landing net) - £6    Night fishing (by prior arrangement) 24 hours - £25 48 hours - £50

## *Holidays at Sandwich Lakes*

All bookings



on Sandwich Lakes

30 touring pitches with 16 amp EHU, toilet and shower block with disabled wetroom.

Caravans and Motorhome pitches

Caravan Club Site - £24

Main site PITCHUP from £28

Pitch fees include EHU & showers!



SINCE 1907  
CARAVAN AND  
MOTORHOME CLUB

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

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





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

photo - Jack Ayles