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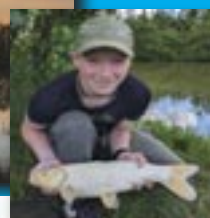


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## Hello and welcome to the March edition of the Freshwater Informer

As we step into March, we can finally start looking forward to longer days and hopefully some milder weather. The winter months have certainly tested our patience, with cold and damp conditions making time on the bank a challenge. But with spring on the horizon, we can all begin to shake off the winter blues and get back to enjoying our time by the water.

Behind the scenes, there have been a lot of changes within the magazine. Despite these adjustments, I've managed to pull together a complete issue from start to finish, updating a few areas while maintaining the familiar feel you've come to expect from Freshwater Informer.

This month, Russ Evens takes a wintery visit to Winwhistle Fishery, giving us an insightful look at his experience staying in one of their shepherd's huts. He shares what it's like to be on the bank in colder conditions while also enjoying the venue's evening entertainment.

Andy Lush continues his fishing adventures, this time heading abroad and landing some impressive captures along the way. His journey is sure to inspire those looking to expand their own angling horizons.

With the show season coming to an end, James and I have been attending various events, making valuable connections with both the trade and fellow anglers. We've had a fantastic time meeting like-minded people, and these experiences have sparked new ideas for the magazine.



Keep an eye out for some exciting features in the coming months as we work to expand our content and bring our digital media up to date—all while continuing to provide the physical copy you love.

As always, we love featuring your captures, so don't forget to send in your best shots to [info@freshwaterinformer.com](mailto:info@freshwaterinformer.com).

Tight lines, and here's to a great start to spring!

*Have a great month, The FWI Team.*

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The Freshwater Informer  
email: [info@freshwaterinformer.com](mailto:info@freshwaterinformer.com)

COPY DEADLINE for April 2025 Magazine  
Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 5pm

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# Beaver Fishery

Hello all, well what can we say about the fishery since the last report. We have been battling the weather once again but this time we have had a mix of strong winds, snow and freezing temperatures. The strong winds that came in caused Ben and I some extra work that we could of done without. As usual we had to spend more time than we would of liked removing branches and bows from the lakes, roads and pathways but the biggest issue was a fallen tree into Snipe Lake and another into Westlake. After the strong winds battered us we then have had to contend with minus temperatures and all of our lakes have an icy lid on them at some point. Even with our paddle wheel aerators working around the clock, the lakes were still freezing over! Crazy. Mother Nature is certainly showing us who the boss is that's for sure as there will be more storms to come i'm sure.

Fingers crossed Mother Nature treats us a little better this coming month and Ben and I can get on with our usual maintenance work readying the fishery for spring instead of clearing more fallen trees in and out of the water. It all seems to be one step forward and two steps back at the moment but it won't be long before the thermals can be left in the drawer and the sun will shine



John Pelham 18-04 Daughters



ben whittaker 18-12 snipe



Tricklebrook New Lake Common



paul owen 10-04 jeffs



Tricklebrook New Lake Common



Tricklebrook New Lake Common



Luke Hall 24-00 PB Snipe

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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

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# A Great Time at Whinwhistle Fishery

**By Russ Evans**

*I hope you all had a great Christmas and wishing all the anglers out there a Happy 2025 by the water's Edge*

I finished last year with a memorable fishing trip with my Son in Law Andy Wilson to a venue we had never fished before called Whinwhistle Fishery at a place called East Wellow in Hampshire, a place where Florence Nightingale has her resting place at nearby St Margaret's church. Set in 26 acres of beautiful Hampshire countryside the fishery consists of four small lakes and a lovely stretch of the river Blackwater. I booked the trip three months before our two night visit as I wanted to secure one of the onsite Shepherds Huts and with great facilities too like a very well stocked tackle shop, open all day café, licensed bar with evening meals prior to arrangement, what more could we have asked for.

## **Huge Perch Exist**

To be honest I had not until mid-last year ever heard of Whinwhistle Fishery, it was only surfing YouTube that I saw a couple of videos and then took a look at their excellent website <https://whinwhistlecoarsefishery.co.uk/> I spotted that the lakes held some monster Perch and immediately knew that I must go there and have a Perch session. All the time I was there with Andy I filmed for my Fishing Tail Films channel <https://www.youtube.com/@fishingtailfilms> so you can see that the video gives plenty more information about this friendly fishery should you be interested in a fishing trip to Whinwhistle.

Upon our planned trip to the fishery we were greeted with the arrival of the first proper cold snap of the year and after booking in with the fishery with regards to our day tickets and accommodation we both found ourselves setting our tackle up in sleeting snow along the banks of Keepers Lake which contains mixed species but Perch over four pounds. On setting up our floats rods, Robin Redbreast was quickly on the scene and I had a friendly Robin taking maggots out of my stretched hands which I managed to capture on film and is part of the film, amazing to see. With some very cold and frosty overnight temperatures to follow I am always a bit concerned about the first real cold snaps of any season as it must be a bit of a shock to the system of many fish species unless of course for the Pike who were active in certain sections of the lake. However we were going to have a good time and a good time we certainly did have.

Fishing wise over the Thursday and Fridays of our trip bites were at a premium with some skimmers, small roach, tiny perch and Andy's F1 being the highlight of the fishing but this was one of the best, if not the best fishing trips we had both experienced. With a return trip planned we made sure we took in all what the fishery was about and I had a good look at the other lakes and of course of the almost mile section of the river Blackwater which look stunning and fish friendly. I was regretting not bringing along my river tackle as some of the swims looked so inviting with its fish holding spots. The river has thrown up in the past some quality roach and grayling plus chub so is definitely on my angling list to try as I do love my river fishing.





## Food and Country Music

After our first days fishing we quickly put our tackle away and headed to the Whinwhistle Café for our booked meal and a pint of ale. The meal cooked by tackle shop manager John was the enormous Whinwhistle signature Burger and chips, let's just say there was plenty there and we both struggled to eat it all. It was there that we got chatting more to fishery owners Ant and Mandy who were telling us about their journey with the fishery as they purchased the land and lakes just a few years ago and it is plain to see that they have poured their heart and soul into the place with so much more to come in the near future. On the Friday night of our stay Ant and Mandy invited us to a private function they had organised in the Whinwhistle Bar and restaurant. The event was to include their local neighbours to the fishery as they like to create a friendly community spirit and they laid on a fantastic spread for each table with cold meats, cheeses, pickles, fruit, crackers and breads etc it was a real treat that we were not expecting on our visit to the fishery. There was also some great entertainment for everyone to enjoy with the meal with local Country singer Euan Keep and his guitar providing some excellent music. In fact, on the previous night Euan popped into the café to have a rehearsal of his playlist so Andy and I got entertained two nights running with our meals.

## Storm Bert Arrived

The plan was to fish on the Saturday of our departure for a few hours but the weather had made a dramatic change around with very wet and gusty winds plus the temperatures had increased to 14 degrees C. What a difference from our arrival which was snowy conditions and minus overnight to wet and windy. With Storm Bert moving in we decided to make our way home after breakfast and our final farewell. With regards to the excellent Shepherds Huts, they have internal log burners which kept us nice and warm especially on the very cold night of -2 degrees. When you book the accommodation it is on a bed and breakfast basis so you can have if you want an excellent full English to set you up for the day and with the café being open all day you can pop in for a quick snack anytime you wish.

## New Year Return

Although we did not manage to slip the net under a huge Perch, it was more down to that first cold snap but when water temperatures have settled and more constant we will both be back early in the New Year for another try at this excellent fishery plus my river tackle will join me this time as well.

So another New Year has arrived and that always brings fresh hopes of good times ahead by the water's edge. The weather continues to bring challenges and I have been watching my local river sections water levels rise up and down to extreme levels all last year and the season before that. It

certainly makes for difficult fishing conditions as the fish are moving about all the time which must unsettle them. Let's keep our fingers crossed for more settled weather patterns in the months ahead.

January to mid-March for me is when I am most active with my Perch fishing so I hope to report soon in a future column that I have landed a New PB stripey, it won't be for the lack of trying.

Finally I would like to wish you all a successful New Year ahead and Tight Lines.

**Russ Evans**  
**Fishing Tail Films**





## Greenacres

### Speci 1

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 3lb. 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

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

### 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 ground bait 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 ground bait every now and again just to keep their heads down grubbing around. There has also been some nice rudd being caught up to 1lb.

**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

## Winter Success for Young Angler Lewis Goodwin!

A huge congratulations to Lewis Goodwin, one of the younger contributors to The Freshwater Informer, for an incredible run of Pike captures this winter!

Lewis has been making the most of his time on the bank, putting in the effort despite the tough conditions, and it's certainly paying off.

His latest success on the River Rother includes a stunning string of Pike, with his biggest so far tipping the scales at an impressive 25lb!

A massive well done to Lewis—great to see such dedication and skill paying off. We're sure there's plenty more to come from



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

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Harley Williams



Nick Gorden - Pike



Trevor Gilbert - 3lb 1oz Perch



Bethany Ardley - Koi carp



Mark Day



Damon Scott - Orchard Farm, 11lbs Common Carp



Robert Edmunds -Tricklebrook -



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# Hawkhurst Fish Farm



Ryan - Main Lake

A few of the captures from Hawkhurst Fish Farm this winter



Jack - Specimen Lake - 27lb Common



Curtis Brightwell - Main Lake



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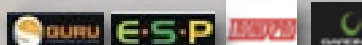
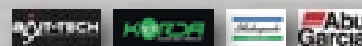


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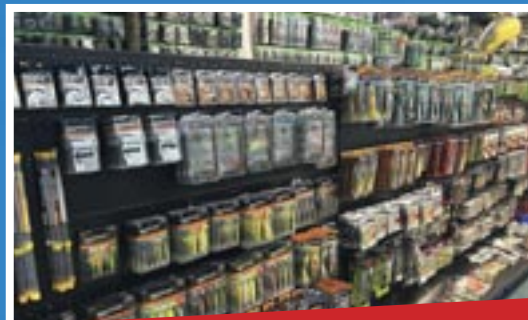
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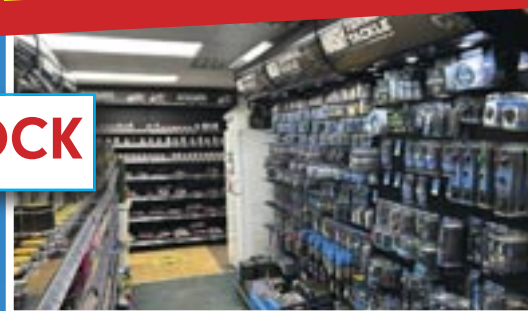


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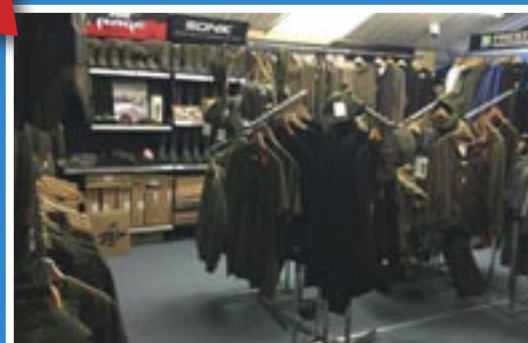
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CATCHING ELEMENTS

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The weather forecast was as session. A frosty start with high winds, and even snow

I squelched my way along the footpath towards the river, weighed down by pockets stuffed full of 'just in case' baits and tackle. By the time I reached the water, my chest was burning, my head was sweating, and my fingers were numb from the cold. Not the best start to my last river trip of the season, but based on the forty or so seasons that I have fished, par for course and no more than I should have come to expect.

Every season I make plans to target particular species, stretches or techniques, and every season, weather conditions, or real life, get in the way and make it all too easy to leave it until next time. That's fine until you wake up one morning and realise that the season is all but over and that if you don't act now the chance will be gone. Hence why I was huffing and puffing, loaded up like a pack horse, as I made unsteady progress across unforgiving ground.



Chub tend to be the main quarry on the Rother and so most of my baits and tackle were focused on them. A couple of seasons ago I had started to catch good numbers of perch, nothing particularly big, but encouraging enough for me to think that there may be the odd better one amongst the tangle of roots and branches that festoon the pools of the upper reaches. Pike are another species that, despite me having a great affection for, tend to escape my attention for the simple reason that I never quite find the time.

Despite always being short of time, I'm never short of optimism, and if all went to plan, then all of that would change today. About my person I had cheese paste for the chub, worms and prawns for both chub and perch, and a selection of lures with which to target all three species.

'What could go wrong ' I thought to myself, as I weaved my way across the heavy ground towards my first spot. Quite a lot as it turned out!

Firstly it began to hail, the one element that the weather forecaster had failed to predict! This was made all the more uncomfortable by a gusting headwind that instantly froze exposed hands and face. With the hail stinging my eyes, I broke into a lumbering canter as I attempted to make the cover of some nearby trees. A journey made even more ponderous and erratic as the wind began to change direction, catching my landing net and making it act like a drouge, I was dragged left, right, backwards and forwards. If anyone else had been as foolish to have be out, they may well have thought that I was some kind of demented eccentric butterfly catcher as I weaved and waddled my way across the field with my net flapping around my head.

Secondly, it turned out that the worms that I had so carefully placed in a bait tin at home were still carefully placed in a bait tin at home. A fact that I only discovered once I had half slipped, half slumped at the foot of the trees that I sought sanctuary beneath. Instantly splitting the bag that contained the cheese paste and causing it to ooze out of my pocket like cheap toothpaste.

As the hail storm subsided I surveyed the scene. Blue fingers, red face, wet clothes and smelling like a pair of week old socks. I sat there gently steaming, although it may have been vapour from the extra strong blue cheese that now coated my trousers...

The world has a knack of balancing bad luck with good, and just behind the trees was a small pool to which I'd never previously paid much heed. As I was already halfway into the undergrowth I thought I might as well try. With only prawns as bait, I lightly hooked one on a size 8 hook, beneath a bobber float, and lowered it into the water. Almost instantly it jagged towards the bank and a small chub came splashing to the net. Buoyed by this early success, I left the first fish in the landing net and repeated the process. It took a little longer, but was a little more worth waiting for as the next fish actually pulled back and put a





indecisive as my approach to the  
the chance of sunny spells, rain,

*Alex Coutts*

## *In The Edge With Alex*

bend in the rod. It was no monster, but big enough to put a smile on my face and help me forget the cold and rather pungent aroma I now emitted.

It was time to get down to the business at hand and start fishing properly. Originally I had intended on working my way downstream from my starting position but the banks are precarious at the best of times, let alone when they are slippery, as they would now be after the hail. Instead I decided to forge my way upstream into unknown territory. At least I could salvage something from my end of season sortie, as this stretch was on my to-do list.

Unruly and overgrown, the first few spots I found were a mess of roots and snags. Although I have no doubt that they all contained fish, steep banks and low branches made getting a bait in position hard, and getting a fish out almost impossible. I ploughed on, and even a persistent rain shower didn't dampen my enthusiasm. I forced my way through the undergrowth that separated the field from the river and found a lovely long run that look fishable. Ideally I would have liked to have fished down to the raft of detritus that had accumulated at the head of the run but that was completely inaccessible. I had visions of a great shoal of chub seeking sanctuary underneath it, lazily intercepting items of food as they drifted by. If they were there, my position might allow me to pick off any stragglers, and it also gave me a nice 30 yard trot before the next bend. I broke up a few prawns and scattered them around the swim, hoping to draw the attention of any hungry residents. I ran the float through, adding a few inches of depth each time until I was tripping bottom, but to no avail. The world started to darken, it wasn't clear whether it was my mood or the sky, until I stepped back into the field and received another battering from even more hail.

What's taken minutes to describe, took hours to endure and I was really beginning to feel the effects. I even briefly considered taking up golf. At least those chaps would have the sense to stay in the club house on a day like today. Warm and dry, recounting past glories, instead of stodging around knee deep in mud getting pelted by hail.

Thankfully, I persevered until I rounded a bend and came across an area devoid of trees. Recent flooding had flattened the worst of the burdocks and brambles, and the run-off had even carved out a small path to the river.

This vantage point put me on the inside of a broad bend. Slack water on the far side, an eddy below me at my feet, with fast water through the middle. Slightly downstream, on my side, was a nice overhang alongside a well defined crease. If it was going to happen, it should happen here. Cold hands made hooking a bait on way harder than it should have been, but after a fair bit of rubbing of fingers and a great deal of swearing, I got things to a point that I was happy with. I watched the float bob along the crease, guiding it with the rod tip as my centrepin reel lazily revolved, expecting it to disappear at any moment. It didn't. Frustrated, I batted the end tackle back towards me. As I went to lift it out for another cast, the rod hooped over. Fish or snag? The fact it was taking line suggested the former. Soon confirmed as a dark shape raced across the pool. That the fish made it to the fast water, and that the cold had left me with ice cubes for fingers and the reflexes of a house brick, made for a rather intense and protracted fight as the chub did all in its power to make good its escape. Sheer willpower and bloody mindedness meant that this was one battle I was never going to loose, and despite my limited mobility, I was eventually in a position to heave the fish over the waiting net.

The misery of the previous eight hours drained away as I drew back the mesh to reveal my prize. Not a particularly big fish, but deep bodied and in immaculate condition. As I watched it swim away I was already making plans for next season..





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Fish of the Month Prize Winner

Although our **Urban Baits** 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.

This competition is open to all species. To be in with a chance of winning, send your catches to [info@freshwaterinformer.com](mailto:info@freshwaterinformer.com) Winners will receive a Freshwater Informer Session Pack 2kg of Boilies 1kg Stick Mix, 500ml Liquid and Hook Baits to match in either their **Nutcracker, Red Spicy Fish, Tuna & Garlic, Strawberry** or **Fully Loaded Range**



The 48-hour New Year session promised ideal conditions with a pressure drop, warmth, and rain. Planning to use maggots in small PVA bags with matching hookbaits, I arrived to find stormy weather and a temperature drop but stuck to my plan. Initial laps of the lake revealed little activity, so I settled in a spot with varied depths and features.

Before dark, rods were out with different rigs, one being a short hinge stiff rig near Norfolk reeds over half a pint of red and white maggots with a corked white pop-up—previously landing me a 41lb 8oz PB common! Battling stormy conditions,

I tried to rest, but at 1:30 AM, a few bleeps from the receiver had me



sprinting to the rods. Hooked into a strong fish, I wrestled it through the chaos of a cold night fight. After five minutes, a huge common slid into my new Trakker net. The bailiff, hearing the commotion, assisted with weighing and handling the fish safely. After careful checks and carp care application, we confirmed the weight at 38lb 8oz. A midwinter bite in brutal conditions made the result even sweeter. Really proud of my tactics and execution, this was a mega moment, boosting confidence for the spring ahead!





# JIM'S JOURNEY.

**Over the last few months weve not had the time or the weather to get out on the bank, but we were able to attend the Winter Carp Show at Sandown Race Coarse and the Essex Carp Show.**



## JIM'S JOURNEY: A DIVE INTO THE SANDOWN AND WINTER CARP SHOWS

Over the last couple of months, we have had the pleasure of attending two fantastic carp fishing events the Sandown Carp Show and the Winter Carp Show in Essex. As someone new to these shows, I was blown away by the sheer number of products and innovations on display



Walking around the venues, we visited many stands, chatting with manufacturers about the latest tackle, bait, and fishing gear. It was fascinating to see the amount of different products available. We were even fortunate enough to take away some samples, allowing us to test them in my own fishing sessions I have been lucky enough to join the Rigmorale team which will provided to me a vast welth of knowledge.

While Dad was busy networking and sourcing new opportunities for the magazine, I found myself on an unexpected journey of my own. My regular articles, Jim's



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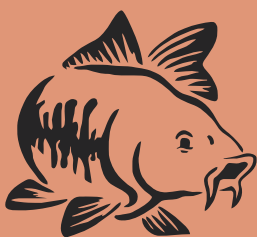
Journey, caught the attention of some key brands, and I was incredibly grateful to be offered a bit of sponsorship. One of the most exciting collaborations is with Rigmarole Tackle, who took the time to walk me through their full range of terminal tackle. Their products will suit my fishing style, and I can't wait to put them to the test on the bank.

Bait sampling was another major highlight. We received samples from top brands such as Monster Bait, **Urban Baits**, Parker Baits, and Tails Up, including their latest innovation, Cornz. I'm eager to see how these perform and will be writing detailed reviews as soon as I get the chance to use them in my fishing sessions.

Another exciting introduction was to the team behind Swim Booker. We're looking at potential collaborations in the future, which could greatly benefit both the magazine and our social media audience.

The camaraderie and shared passion for carp fishing at these events were truly inspiring. The people we met, the conversations we had, and the products we explored have all contributed to an unforgettable experience.

With two shows down, we're now looking ahead to the next big event—The Big One in Farnborough on the 1st and 2nd of March. If the previous shows are anything to go by, it promises to be another incredible opportunity to immerse ourselves in the world of carp fishing. Stay tuned for more updates as I continue my journey in the world of angling



# 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 at £12 for 2 rods for 12 hours.



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



# Angling Societies

## The Linton Angling Society - Membership Vacancies

We are a small but friendly club with beautiful lake, 2 ponds, 5 reservoirs and over 8 miles of fishing on the River Medway and Bault. Our waters contain Carp to 32lb, Pike 30lb+, Tench 8lb+, Chub 7lb, Perch 4lb and Roach to 3lb, including some good Bream and Eels. All year fishing, member's guest permits, night fishing allowed. We run over 30 matches a year and have a large junior section. Concessionary rates available for OAPs, Disabled and Juniors.

For further details contact: **Jason Tuckey on 07983 569220**

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

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

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Barbel to 15lbs 2ozs, Chub to 5lbs+, Perch to 3lbs 6ozs,

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**In The Edge With Alex**

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# Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society

The Society has now joined CLUBMATE, so any new members wanting to join can visit our website to get the link or visit us via the Clubmate website.

The Society recently stocked 40 Carp averaging 16lb 8oz between Longfield Lake and Haysden Lake, two of the fish were 24lb. Some 10"+ silvers also went into Haysden Lake.

This year, we celebrate our 150 year Anniversary, a fantastic achievement and the Club is still going from strength to strength. There will be various different things going on throughout the year to celebrate.

CATCH REPORTS:

Neal Rogers continued his fine run of winter predator fishing, catching a lovely looking 21lb 2oz river Pike.  
Mark Roe and Tony Cooper have also had 20lb+ Pike recently.  
Tony Baldwin had a cracking session Chub fishing, landing several fish with the best one weighing 5lb 3oz



MATCH RESULT:  
KNOCK UP - Old Ballast Pit  
12 anglers fished

A gap in the Match calendar allowed a dozen of our regular attendees to get some practice in and the choice of venue was the Old Ballast Pit. Those in the right areas found that Bream were on the feed and some good ones at that. Winner Jim Sene had the best fish weighing 7lb 3oz.

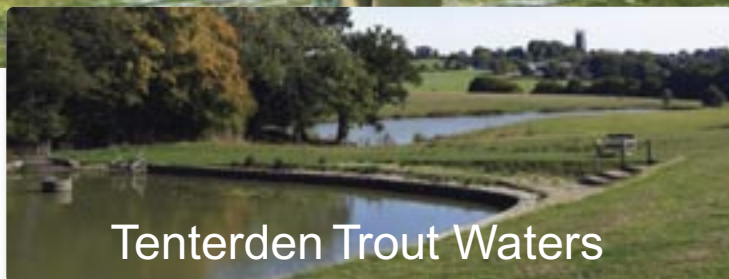
Lack of small silver fish being caught was probably down to the constant visits of Cormorants on a daily basis stressing the fish out and unsettling them. David Brooks took second spot with a respectable weight of Bream, while third spot was taken by Lee Wakeman with another Bream catch.

- |                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1st - Jim Sene     | 23lb 8oz |
| 2nd - David Brooks | 14lb 4oz |
| 3rd - Lee Wakeman  | 11lb 3oz |





# TROUT INFORMER



Tenterden Trout Waters

Trout fishing at Tenterden has been good throughout January and some quality fish have been caught as you can see in the photo. Best Rainbow has been 8lbs 8oz and was returned to fight another day and validates that the big ones are in there and all adds to the fun.

Our Anglers are reaping the reward of the cold weather and recent stocking with the Trout feeding and putting up a good fight. Current patterns that are working – Blue Flash Damsel, Cormorant and White Cats Whisker.

We have 3 lakes (5 acres of water) fully stocked with Rainbows, Browns & Blues ranging from 3lbs-12lbs. 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.

We offer Fly Fishing Tuition - discover more, visit our website.

Gift Vouchers are available to purchase for permits, tuition and Shepherds Hut staycations.

Come and stay with us in our heated/comfortable Shepherds Hut in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Nr Tenterden where you can fish with 20% off our permits all year round. We are in the Top 50 Stillwater Trout Fisheries in the British Isles as voted by Trout & Salmon.

We look forward to welcoming you for some great Winter Fishing at Tenterden enjoying your sport. Tight Lines, Gaynor, Richard & Audrey.

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## Brick Farm Lakes Herstmonceux, East Sussex

Fishing of recent has been great with successful flies including the ever-dependable Blue Flash Damsel, Cats Whisker, various versions of Daddies and believe it or not Green Mops.

Some recent successes include our very own Alfie, who landed his first trout, aged only 6. He's regularly on hand in the Lodge and is always listening so often knows what flies are working best!

Stuart Johnson caught a very nice 5lb 8oz rainbow from Stag Lake on an 'orange egg' with a total bag of 4 fish weighting in excess of 14 1/2lb. Lee Rixon brought his son Owen along for their first visit to Brick Farm and was rewarded with both catching their 3 fish tickets, each bag exceeding 9lb. Looking forward to seeing you both again soon.



8 members of Eastbourne & District Fly Fishing Club joined us for a competition to compete for 'best brace' and were rewarded with all but one member achieving their bags (15 fish total).

Mark, Kevin and Jim from the Cinder Hill syndicate had a fantastic day - each exceeding their bags and needing to buy extra fish. Total for the very happy 3 anglers was 11 fish. They also gave us top marks for our renowned mega brunch breakfast!

Although fishing is clearly fruitful at the moment, the ground is still extremely wet and slippery after the recent very heavy rain and high winds, not to mention the dense fog, so please take care around the fishery!

Look out for Will and Darren on their YouTube channel (Off The Hook) - they recently had a coaching session with Rob Barden when they both caught their 1 fish each, plus one additional fish. Their lesson included fly casting, landing the Trout and various fly fishing tips. Well done lads, hope you enjoy the cooked product!







## GUIDED LURE & FLY FISHING DAYS WITH ANDY LUSH

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

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

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

**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!

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



## Brick Farm Lakes Trout Fishery



Set within the stunning East Sussex countryside, we are a family run fly fishery comprising 4 well stocked lakes. Almost in a secret valley of it's own, we have a superb oak-framed lodge for anglers and their guests overlooking Brick Lake, which provides a warm and welcome space with tea, coffee, licensed bar and bacon sandwiches etc.



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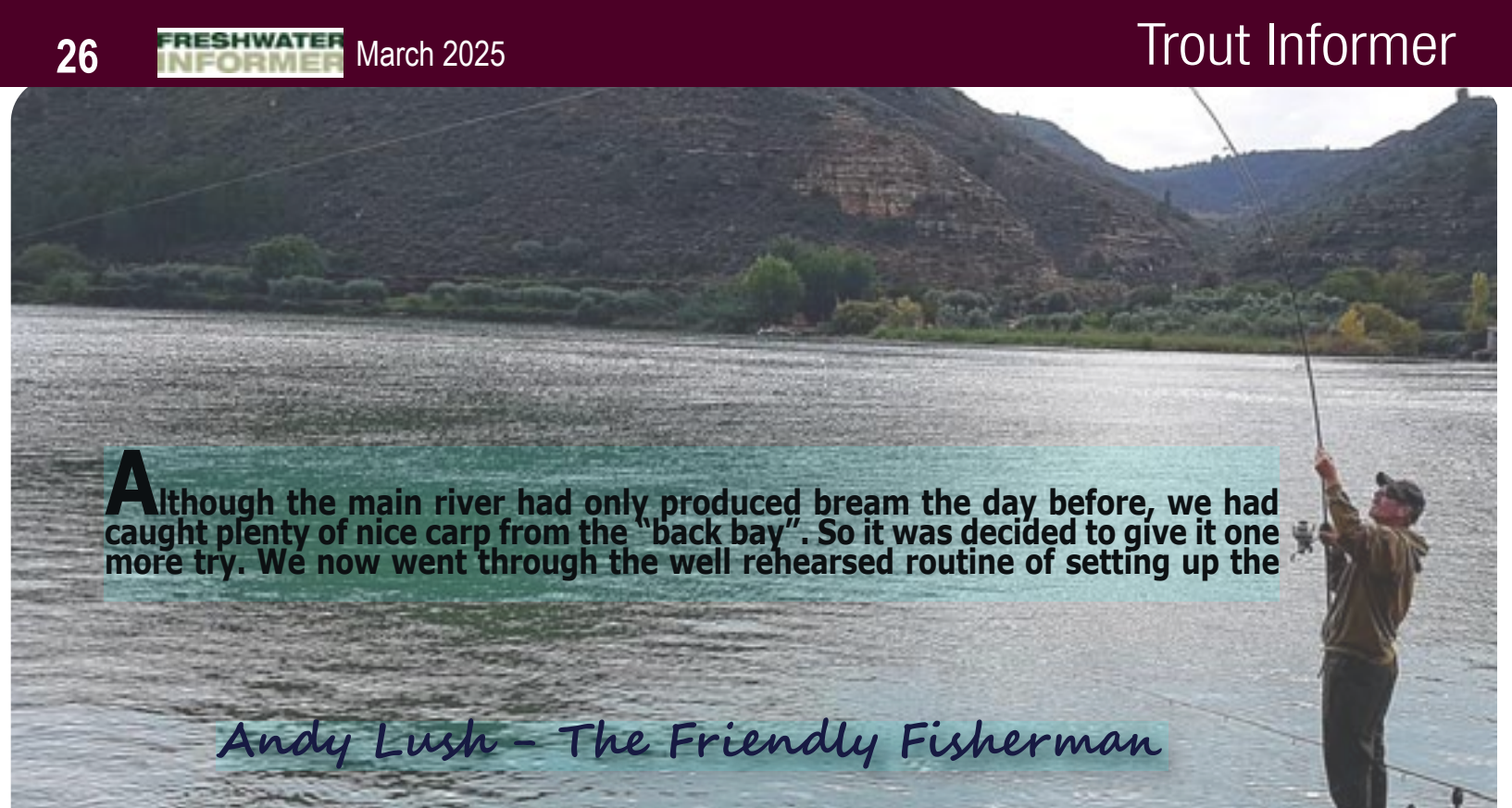
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**A**lthough the main river had only produced bream the day before, we had caught plenty of nice carp from the "back bay". So it was decided to give it one more try. We now went through the well rehearsed routine of setting up the

### *Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman*

Although the main river had only produced bream the day before, we had caught plenty of nice carp from the "back bay". So it was decided to give it one more try. We now went through the well rehearsed routine of setting up the rods, pods, landing net, unhooking mat and chairs before settling in to wait for "bite time".

#### Day 4

The "back bay" was very quiet, not really surprising as it had been hammered the previous day. We saw no signs of the carp in the bay, or in the main river for that fact. So we had to just sit, wait and hope that some fish would find our baits. My rods were very quiet again, the odd bleep from the alarms signalled yet another "bait robbing" small bream was whittling away at my double boilie hookbaits. Adam had now resorted to using two "hardened" 18mm baits, this prevented the bream stealing the bait. But with two lost carp, due to hook pulls after this change made him ponder on the rig mechanics, was the hook too small, or was the hair too close to the hook, with the larger baits?

#### Day 5

The carp were no longer at the boat mooring, so we needed to find a new swim. Having fished the river for over thirty years, Gary now used his intimate knowledge to scope out a few likely looking spots. First we drove upstream towards the Dam, but Gary wasn't happy and quickly dismissed this area. Next we crossed the river,



driving downstream checking for signs of carp, or isolated patches of coloured water, which would indicate feeding fish. Eventually we found ourselves back at the "cliff" swim.

Once the rods were in position we settled back and drank tea. Wondering if we had made the right decision? We didn't have to wait long to get the answer! A run on one of Gary's rods saw me struggling to tame a strong fish that surfaced briefly before shedding the hook! I'm afraid I have to admit it was down to "operator error". Being unfamiliar with 'big pit' reels, I'd overtightened the drag as I adjusted it from free spool to fighting drag.

Adam made no such mistake when he hooked his first fish of the day. Once hooked, this wild common swam quickly across the current, before heading downstream. As the fight continued, Adam slowly gained line, little by



little, inch by inch all the way back against the flow, before being finally scooped into the waiting landing net. Fortunately my next chance came to one of my rods, that had a standard 'baitrunner' reel on it, so no dramas this time. The fight was dogged, but I was able to apply heavy pressure, now I was using familiar tackle. Adam scrambled down the steep bank to the waters edge and readied the net. The fish begrudgingly gave in, finally a broad back of a large common broke the surface, before ploughing off uncontrollably through the waves. Applying heavy side strain, I was once again in control. When it resurfaced, I made no mistake and slid it towards Adam, who bundled it into the waiting net.

From my vantage point I could see it was a good deal larger than any we had caught so far. As they say "the scales never lie" The needle swung past 30lbs, finally settling at 31lb 4oz, not my biggest Ebro carp, but the biggest of the trip so far. The rest of the day passed in a blurr, as a few more fish graced our rods. "Time flies when you're having fun" and so our penultimate day came to a rapid end



Our last day, where had the week gone? We had to return to the "cliff" swim after the previous days success. If anything it was even busier, plenty of carp and no bream! Adam started the ball rolling when he had a screaming run from a fish that had



no intention of stopping. Applying maximum pressure, the line slowed until all you could hear was the satisfying clicking of the drag. Eventually

the relentless rod pressure saw Adam slowly gaining line, the protracted fight was nearing an end. Gary now scrambled down the well worn path to the water's edge, ready with the net. I watched on with baited breath, hoping the hook hold would stay firmly in. Occasionally the line pinged off a fin, or the fish shook its head, both actions saw the rod tip plunge downwards sharply. I'm not sure who was most unnerved by this? Suddenly a broad flack appeared just out of netting range. Slowly, as if it were in slow motion, the fish was drawn across the current towards the shore, where Gary was waiting. As soon as he could he expertly engulfed the huge common into the folds of the landing net. What a fish!

Gary asked Adam what's your PB? Adam had recently equalled his UK PB, with a French fish of 39lbs. Gary informed him this fish was going to eclipse those! The expression in Adam's face was a picture, as he parted the mesh to reveal his prize, what a fish. "The moment of truth". Adam's smile broadened as the needle swung past 40lbs, before settling just shy of 50lbs. A moment to remember, Adam had smashed his PB with this enormous common of 49lb 4oz.

The next few hours were a blurr, I added another two 27lb commons, while Adam snared another biggie of 30lb 12oz. Sometime later, I had another mid-twenty and Adam finished off with a fish of 25lbs, what a finale!



***Til' next month. Tight lines, Andy Lush***



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*Fish With Carl*

## A Windy Winter Session to Remember!



### A Windy Winter Session to Remember!

12-year-old Archie braved the elements at the mighty 40-acre pit and was rewarded with 8 stunning fish, topped by this immaculate 35lb PB common!

Fishing small mesh PVA bags with snowman-style hook baits and a few scattered offerings,

Archie proved that winter success is all about the right tactics and determination!

Big congrats, Archie—what a session! This makes you the deserving winner of this months **Sussex Bait Developments** bait package.



## Its not the size of the fish it's the size of the smile

### Ross Challinor - Local Mill Pond - Goldfish

Not all fish have to be big specimens! Out again in the cold and mud, but totally worth it—Charlie's all smiles as he ticks off another species: the goldfish! Bonus catch—a lovely roach from the same spot. Great little session!

Congratulations, Ross! I'm sure you'll find **Carl Smith's The Simple Fishing Guidebook** very useful for ticking off even more species in the future. Be sure to keep us updated on your adventures!







Archie Haynes - 13lbs 20z mirror NEW PB



Bailey hills - 29.5lb common carp



Louie Aged 6 - Perch



Joshua Hedderly - Pike at 22.5 lb



Ollie Perrott - East sussex Private pond - 18lb 9oz



Luoie - Aged 6 Darenth Big Lake 13lb



William Stevens - Pike 17lb 9os - River Ouse Lewes



Riley cooper - 3lb 8oz brown trout - River Uck



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# March Update

by instructor Warren White



***Fishing for schools since its beginnings in 2008 have always had an excellent group of coaches and what made the Kent group unique was that it taught Fly, coarse and in recent years Sea fishing to young people.***

I ran Fishing for school, Kent for 12 years then for a season fellow coach, David Evans took over. But after David took up a permanent job at the school I work at, Les Jones took over the role of Head coach at Fishing for schools, Kent. It worked out well as Les had just taken severance from his work in the print. Last year we were looking at recruiting some more coaches, which wasn't as easy as we thought it would be. An advert was put out that went in the FWI as well as the Fishing for Schools site, but we had no takers.



***Max Allen is the adult at the back and Charles Jardine (Head of Fishing for Schools) at the front along with two of the school students***

We had an idea to try and recruit some new coaches. Brian Bailey at Hadlow college, who in the summer was running a L2 coaching course, had a word with all the new coaches telling them about Fishing for schools and that we were looking at recruiting more coaches for Kent and from this we recruited two new coaches.

Last summer at Monk lakes, I was covering for another F4S coach who was on holiday, and I met one of the new coaches Max Allen, who looked like being a good young coach for the future.

This is an insight to one of the new coaches at Fishing for schools, Max Allen.

I have been an almost lifelong angler starting my journey at 8 years old, where I fished local lakes and ponds with my Grandad and neighbour.

I have primarily been a coarse angler over the years, however the types of venues I fish have changed with my fishing mainly taking place on rivers in Kent and further afield.

I have always had a passion for angling and the countryside for as long as I can remember, so studying fisheries management at Hadlow college and then later at the university of Greenwich made sense to me, as I was able to combine my greatest interest with working towards a career.

Through my time at Hadlow I was fortunate to gain many skills including both my level 1 and level 2 angling coach qualification which was great for me, as it has enabled me to hopefully aid and support the future of the angling industry.

Through a recommendation earlier this year from a great lecturer and now colleague at the college Brian Bailey, I was fortunate enough to now turn my passion for angling into a career, as I began working for fishing for schools as an angling coach.

During my short time with the school I have met many great coaches, who have not only helped me with my coaching but also personal angling, with me now taking fly castings lessons.

I look forward to next year's season with fishing for schools, as this will be my first full year of coaching with the team and hopefully many more to follow.

## TIP from Max

A good tip for winter river fishing is to keep mobile and to not stay in the same place for too long. If you haven't had a bite in a while there is a good chance that there is not a lot of fish in that area. I have found this to be the case especially when fishing the Greater Stour. The fish will be torpid at this time of year, meaning they won't be moving around a lot, so trying to find their resting areas, such as slack spots and creases in the rivers, will significantly improve the chances of catching



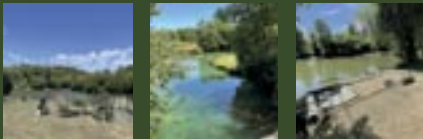
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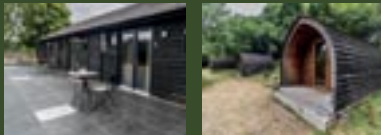
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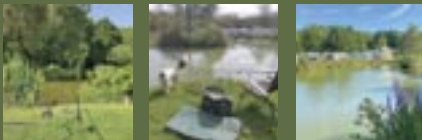
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Adam Beaven 33.4 Prairie Lake



Adam Beaven 31.14 Planatation Lake



Tom Dickenson 34 Prairie Lkae



Simon Tume 30lb Plantation Lake



Charlie Biggenden 40.6 Prairie Lake

### Closing in on the End of Pike Season

With only a month and a half left of the pike season, it's been a quieter one compared to previous years—but still rewarding. Despite the challenges of freezing frosts, flooded rivers, relentless wind, and heavy rain, I've managed to land a few decent fish, with these being the biggest so far. The tough conditions haven't just tested patience but have also made every success even more satisfying. Even on the slow days, the stunning scenery and incredible wildlife have made every session worthwhile. There's nothing quite like being out on the water, surrounded by nature, waiting for that next strike. Here's hoping the final stretch brings a few more good ones before the season wraps up! Tight lines to everyone making the most of it.



Mark Day



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# Medway Man

## Bob Morris

**H**aving survived the Christmas break I am now really looking forward to the coming year and have already made some plans for my piscatorial activities.

Medway Man

Having said this, with my current way of looking at angling exploits these will not be set in stone like some of the targets that I used to chase every year. I have a much more pragmatic/flexible attitude to it all these days and will not bang my head against anything that is proving too difficult - as fascinating as it often may be. I am supposed to be enjoying myself and I want to keep this aspect up front.

Part of the above requires me to admit finally that I have 'sort of' joined the ranks of the 'fine weather fisherman' and whereas I used to force myself to go out and brave the conditions even in foul weather if I was on a mission, I am now quite happy to cancel a trip or pack up if things are looking grisly. Another reason for this is that I now find that I gain as much satisfaction from just being out and watching the waterside environment and its inhabitants as I do from the fishing itself, and this is often extremely difficult if it's blowing a hooligan, and the monsoon season has started. As I have caught plenty of carp, pike, tench, barbel etc, during my long angling career, do I really need to prove that I can still catch them under extreme circumstances? Err. I think that no is probably a sensible answer.

The past few weeks have fallen into this category with changeable weather impacting on my fishing plans although I have managed to catch pike and barbel during this period with some decent fish thrown in. The successful sessions have not had it their own way however and at least half a dozen blanks have come my way during this last month along with several tactical withdrawals and a couple of last-minute cancelations. Other excuses for not going out recently have included, bad arthritic pains in my shoulders, dental work, falling out of bed and bashing my head and a damaged front wheel and tyre due to a pothole!!! Sometimes it all seems to go wrong for you. Fortunately, the reverse can also

occur when the piscatorial pendulum swings back the other way and it all starts happening on your watch 😊

Last time I mentioned that I was looking at ways to avoid tangles on the cast and that the relative size of your bait and lead can be crucial, with an ideal situation being that both should be of similar weight to keep them apart during the cast. One method that I have used is to freeze a lump of chopped fish sections to the hook bait to achieve this, which also has the advantage of introducing some free food around your bait. Regarding freebies however I do have some concerns. There is little doubt that the tactic works. When fishing with my piking pal John, we frequently introduce free offerings/ground bait into the area by



*Falling out of bed and bashing my head*



*Fruits of Labour - Pike*



various means and the pike that we land sometimes regurgitate these in the landing net. We do however often experience a spell where we get a lot of tentative or dropped takes and I do sometimes wonder if the presence of the 'untethered' free bits gives the pike a chance to compare the resistance and behaviour of our hook baits. If true, this is a similar situation to one we have encountered when carp fishing and usually ended with us using balanced/buoyant baits, but it was often difficult to judge how effective this was. On the other hand, a solitary bait may help at such times although I have no firm evidence of it. This sort of problem will be magnified if you are fishing waters or areas that receive a lot of attention/pressure. Pike are certainly no different to carp when it comes to sussing a potentially dangerous situation. I feel that there is a lot more to learn about this subject and I will let you know if I come to any conclusions.


As I was saying, I am as interested in the environment and wildlife these days and noticing the decline of certain species over the last few decades has been a real concern. Sometimes (rarely} however there are increases in population numbers and colonisation of new territories by others. Birds of prey for instance are generally more frequent than they were when I was young. Even sparrowhawks which are relatively common now were a rarity back in the sixties and seventies and we had to go to Scotland or Wales to be in with a chance of spotting a Peregrine Falcon or Red Kite. The same was true of Ravens, which we only bumped into (apart from at the Tower of London} around Snowdonia or certain areas with inaccessible costal cliffs. Over the last decade these impressive large members of the crow family have extended their range to cover the southeast and I now frequently hear and see them during my fishing trips. My last days pike fishing was completely blank but after hearing the distinctive low croaks I looked up and was treated to the spectacular sight of two pairs engaged in a dispute of some sort, presumably over territory. After some impressive displays of their aerobatic skills, they went their separate ways.


Who needs pike? This sighting totally made my day.


Best Fishes & Health Bob Morris




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<b>Chart Hill Lakes</b> Chart Hill Road, Chart Sutton ME17 3EZ	<b>07398 571337</b>
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<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>
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<b>Greenacres Farm Fishery</b> Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden TN27 8EH	<b>07933 934942</b>
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<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>
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<b>Brick Farm Lakes</b> Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux BN27 4RS	<b>01323 832615</b>
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<b>Dens Tackle</b> 73 Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6JN	<b>01303 267053</b>
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<b>MFC Outdoor Store</b> 9 Station Road, Hailsham BN27 2BE	<b>01323 846883</b>
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<b>Hastings Bexhill &amp; District</b> Postal enquiries to S.Corke, 2, The Sidings, Bexhill On Sea TN40 1RF Chris Pagan <b>07429 655237</b> / Steve Potter <b>07935 268174</b>	
<b>Linton Angling Society</b> Jason Tuckey on <b>07983 569220</b> or email <a href="mailto:lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk">lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk</a>	
<b>Tonbridge &amp; District A &amp; FPS</b> 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

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!



CARAVAN AND  
MOTORHOME CLUB

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



on Sandwich Lakes

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





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

Photo By Andy Lush