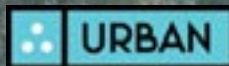


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Welcome to the September 2026! edition of The Freshwater Informer

With the weather finally cooling down slightly, and a very small amount of much-needed rain arriving—which has at least managed to fill my water butt—I hope it is becoming a little more enjoyable being bankside. The relentless weather over the past few weeks has certainly made things difficult for many anglers and fisheries, with the heat putting additional pressure on both fish and those trying to manage their waters.

Over the past month, we took to the banks of West End Lake at Elphick's Fishery, and we've seen a good number of captures from you all. It's always great to see the reports, photographs and stories coming in from across the region, so please keep them coming. Next month is a very special edition for us as we celebrate our 30th Anniversary.

I've already received a fantastic number of articles and have started putting the magazine together. I've even booked some time off work so I can concentrate on getting everything finished and ready for print.

All articles for the Anniversary Edition need to be with me by **11th September** so I have enough time to get the magazine set, checked and sent to print.

Once I've finally got this edition over the line, I'm hoping I can get back out on the bank myself and fish a few of the venues that feature in the magazine. It would certainly be nice to put the laptop down, pick the rods up and enjoy some time doing what started this whole journey in the first place! As always, thank you for your continued support of the Freshwater Informer, and I hope you enjoy this month's edition.



As always, a huge thank you to every one of you who reads, shares, and supports The Freshwater Informer. Your continued support means everything to us and helps the magazine continue to grow month after month.

We hope you enjoy this month's edition, and as always, tight lines!

I'm working hard behind the scenes to bring you even more great content throughout 2026. If there's a fishery you think we should visit, an event you'd like us to cover, or a fishing story you'd like to share, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Have a great Month tight lines to you all

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The Freshwater Informer

email: info@freshwaterinformer.com

COPY DEADLINE for October 2026 Magazine
Friday 11th September 2026 at 5pm

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

Tricklebrook Fishery



Henry Halford - Catching some really good F1's now a regular angler at Tricklebrook Fishery



Chris Beni 28lb Grass Carp



Tricklebrook - Old Lake



Tricklebrook - New Lake



Tricklebrook - New Lake



Tricklebrook New Lake



Specimen Lake - Simon McWilton



33lb 12oz Common - Specimen Lake - Adam Beaven



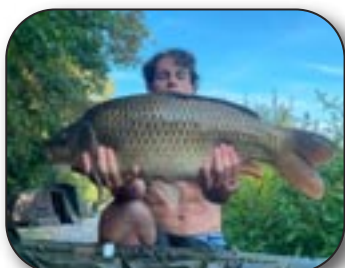
39lb 4oz grasscarp - specimen lake - Clive McWilton



25lb common Specimen Lake - Lee Marston



Louis Main Lake 50lb catfish



Harvey Westwater - Main Lake - 29lb Common

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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
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In The Edge With Alex

If there is a skill that anglers possess that brings almost as much enjoyment as catching fish, it must surely be giving advice and making excuses.

This month I've failed to take my own advice, and as a result am fast running out of excuses...

The month began with a trip to West End Lake on the Elphicks complex. The full trip is reported elsewhere in this month's magazine, but I thought that I'd get my excuses in early!

My plan was to float fish and try and pick out one of the monster carp that the venue is famed for.

Obviously I was using a stepped up approach, utilising 18lb mainline, a 25lb braided hooklink, with a strong hook to match. Tungsten putty replaced the split shot, and the float was held in place by a silicone float adaptor. The lake is very weedy and I wanted to use a setup that allowed all of the component parts to drop off and leave me in direct contact with the fish, should I hook one. I still think that my theory was sound, just not executed very well. I actually had three bites, although I missed them all. The first was simply not paying attention. I was watching a very large fish 'lumping out' in the shallows, and when I looked back to my float it was no longer there. Plain old bad

angling! The second time I was paying attention, but instead of the satisfying thump of a big fish, the strike turned into a slow-motion heave as I pulled up a great long washing line of weed. Had the fish been going in the opposite direction it probably would have helped set the hook. As it was, all it did was pull the bait out of its mouth. The third bite came on the final afternoon when a sizeable carp starting feeding a rod length in front of me. Long story short, I took my time to slowly drag the float into position before getting way ahead of myself and striking at the first sign of movement. In hindsight, two of the three bites would have been converted into hooked fish if I'd

replaced the float with a light leger.

Next up was an afternoon on Four Trees lake at Hawkhurst. A pretty little lake better known for its catfish, although there are some nice carp to be had. Again I was fishing with the float, and again I was trying to pick out one of the better fish. I had plenty feeding in front of me but set my sights on a decent looking mirror that was drifting in and out of the swim. It was gone 6pm by the time everything aligned and I could get the hookbait in front of the mirror without risking any other fish taking the bait. It duly took it, and I had very little control over what happened next. The fish properly beat me up, charging all around the shallows before setting off towards deeper water. I got it back once, I got it back twice, but on the third occasion the hook pulled. I'd chosen to fight fire with fire, and come off second best.

The following week, and I was out on the marshes to try for a carp and watch the eclipse. Let's just say that it was equally disappointing in both regards.

One last role of the dice saw me visit a club water before I seriously considered taking up a less stressful pastime, such as sticking pins in my eyes...

Arriving late afternoon, I took a walk around. It is not the most prolific carp lake in the clubs portfolio, but what the fish lack in number they make up for in appearance, with dark bronze commons and a handful of chestnut mirrors. It's always hard to judge these things, but based on what I've seen, I don't think that there is more than a dozen carp in the place.

Four or five of them were sunning themselves towards the far end. As tempting as it was, experience has taught me that these are rarely feeding fish and to start casting at them is to see them melt away. Instead, I kept looking until I found more encouraging signs of activity. Further around the lake there were a couple of carp moving with much more purpose, and this is where I chose to stop and fish. They were following a pattern around a bay which took them



from some lilies to a weed bed, then across open water to the margins where they followed the contours of the marginal reeds back to their starting point, occasionally dipping down along the way to feed. A conveniently placed swim in the reeds gave me the perfect ambush point. I scattered some pellets along the margin to my left, baited the hook with similar, and swung the float out into position.

The fish were in no particular hurry and it was the best part of an hour before the first of them ghosted past my position. I held my breath. The fish looked every inch a twenty, and was a mirror to boot. It hesitated briefly, marking the spot, before continuing on. 30mins later, another mirror appeared, smaller but keener to feed, it sent up a cloud of silt before it too drifted off. A short time later the big mirror returned and started to feed in earnest. I braced myself and gripped the rod, as bubbles erupted around the float. Just as a bite seemed inevitable, the fish spooked and bolted out across the lake, leaving a swirling wake in its path.

It was clear that the fish had spooked off of the heavy line and that a change was in order. It suddenly (!?) occurred to me that as I was using a float adaptor. I could simply unplug the waggler and replace it with a leger weight. This was hardly a revelation, it is, after all, exactly what I do with my Roving River Rig, but such was my blind determination to catch on the float that I'd completely ignored it for the previous three trips. I dug around in my pockets and found a small ½ oz cube lead. Perfect. Once I had effected the change it was simply a case of a gentle underarm swing, sinking the line, sitting back and waiting.

By this time the sun was starting to set, and although the biggest of the fish had disappeared, others were starting to make their way up from the far end, their shoulders and tail patterns giving away their presence as they pushed through the weedbeds. Eventually the reeds started to knock as at least one fish reached the margins. A trail of bubbles turned into a torrent as the first discovered the pellets. After three blanks on the bounce I was hoping not to make it four. A wise man once told me that 'if you read from the same script, the scene will always play out the same'. I was hoping that the small change from float to leger would lead to a more exciting finale.



All of a sudden the water buckled, line cut up through the surface, and the reel check let out a wretched sound as a carp speared off to make good its escape. I was on the rod in an instant, which curved nicely as the line sang in the breeze. Stout tackle gave me little reason to panic when the fish reached any danger areas. I was quite happy to clamp down and give the fish the butt of the rod. Initially it had made good distance into the bay, but each run became a little shorter, each surge a little more controllable, until finally it was at the net.

Some may consider it a pyrrhic victory, but as peeled back the mesh, it all seemed worth while. No more need for excuses, I'd finally listened to my own advice and made the necessary changes to make it happen. As I slipped the common back into its watery home, I pondered on why I had been so slow to make changes. Maybe it's because fishing is more to me than just catching fish, maybe it's because I'd rather watch a float than a rod tip, maybe it's just because too set in my ways, or maybe it's because I've just got too many excuses.

Either way, the best advice I can give you is - Do as I say, not as I do...



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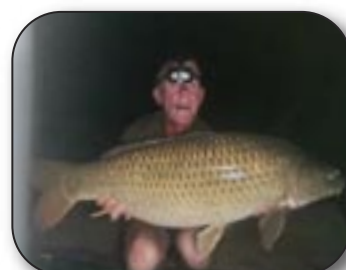
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Prices start at £10 per session on the coarse lakes. For the specimen lakes prices start at £20 for the day rising to £30 for a 24hrs ticket (up to 3 rods). Lessons now available for all ages. Gates open at 7am and close at 6.30pm (Winter hours 7am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

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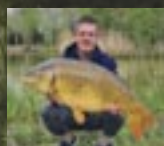
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Fishing With Thiea - The Method Feeder

Although most commonly used for carp, the method feeder is a great way to target all species of bottom feeding fish, including tench, bream, crucian carp, and even roach. The main advantage of using it is that wherever you cast you can be sure that your hookbait is presented directly alongside an attractive pile of groundbait or pellets.

- 1) **Rod/Reel** – Specialist feeder rods come with a selection of push-in quiver tips for bite indication, although a bobbin can be used to signal takes. Most reels can be used as long as they are loaded with a mainline of 8-10lb breaking strain.
- 2) **Hooklinks** – The effectiveness of the method relies on using a short hooklink. Packs of ready tied versions are available in all good tackle shops. Pick a variety of different hook sizes/breaking strains to match to different baits and sized fish.
- 3) **The Method Feeder** – Method feeders consist of a frame around a weight that allows you to pack groundbait or pellets onto it. Pick one that comes with a mould that helps avoid overloading it.
- 4) **Bait** – Groundbait or prepared pellets can be used on the feeder. I prefer 'ready to use' pellets as they have the right consistency to grip the feeder frame. For hookbaits, a hooker pellet is very good, although sweetcorn, maggots, or small boilies will also work well.

Try and cast to the same spot each time to get the fish feeding. Re-cast every 10mins to keep the feed going in. Bites tend to be very aggressive, so stay very close to your rod and set the reel clutch. Most of the time the fish will hook themselves. Good luck.





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Eel - Quarry Lake - Josh



Albie - Gold Lake Darenth - 43lb Cat Fish



Young Guns on the Bank



Newdigate Farms snake lake free get fishing event last on the 16.08.2026 .

Thank you so much to everyone that came along, all of our volunteers and sponsors, companies that have helped with free prizes and goodies.

It was a really successful day getting so many people fishing 🐟



Louis Sexton - Hawkhurst Fishery

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Fishing Tale Films

Our Rivers Need Rain and So I will Wait....

It goes without saying that this year has been a demanding one especially for an angler, depending on what part of the UK you live will determine how much fishing you have practised of late. In the South East it has been mega tough, the rivers are dangerously low and lacking oxygen and the lakes, ponds and pits are down. I have fished just once on the rivers this season which was on the opening day of the season, so much was planned, so much was looked forward to but until we get some meaningful rain to increase the levels I will be sitting tight and leaving the fish well alone. However I have managed to wet a line on a couple of occasions at Newdigate Farms near Dorking, a venue up until May I had not fished before but heard so much about. What a stunning venue it is with a variety of lakes spread over various farms in the town of Newdigate. My fishing sessions have been short and sweet as I just don't like fishing in the heat any more but I have had some great catches especially when I fished Lodge Lake and had some fantastic Golden Orfe with the biggest weighing 3lbs 9oz. I also had other Orfe of 3lbs plus four more of over 2lbs. All caught on a 10ft tip rod with just a simple 1.1oz square lead set up on a running rig with a size 16s 4 inch hooklink and spike to impale an 8mm special wafter. The big Orfe give the feel of hooking specimen size roach as they thump the rod tip and kite off to the left or right just as the redfin does. They are truly amazing looking fish and the Orfe can be found in most of the lakes at this very picturesque venue. Check out their excellent website which details all the other lakes and species you can catch for an enjoyable days fishing, but please note it is day ticket only with no night fishing. <https://www.newdigate-estates.co.uk/fishing/>

Next month's edition celebrates 30 years of The Freshwater Informer, a marvellous achievement and Glen asked for contributions of the past 30 years of fishing and how much the sport has changed in that time, I am sure it will be a fascinating read of how some view these past 30 years. My fishing memories of course go back even further and being born in East London so much of my very first fishing days were spent fishing local lakes like Wanstead Park which

sadly, so I am to believe offers no fishing these days. They were golden days, special days when life seemed much simpler and here is an account of a typical day fishing with my Dad who first introduced me to fishing as a very young boy.

The Glistening Shallows of the Perch Ponds

The East End of the 1960s was a landscape defined by hard work and long shifts. In Plaistow, my father's time was a rare currency, which made our days by the water less of a hobby and more of a sanctuary. It was on those quiet banks that my lifelong love affair with fishing was born.

I was only six years old on that mild autumn morning, but the memory remains as vivid as a photograph. I re-

member the walk from our home to the taxi rank outside Plaistow station, my small hand

safely held in his. We carried only a few limited items of tackle, humble, basic gear for what felt to a young boy like a grand expedition into the unknown. My dad hailed a cab, instructed the driver to take us to Wanstead Park, and, with the quiet confidence of a man planning a perfect day, arranged for the very same driver to return for us when the sun went down. When the cab dropped us off on Blake Hall Road, the grey, urban bustle of London simply vanished. Walking through the main gated entrance, I remember looking up into the canopy, my eyes scanning the high branches for red squirrels. They were still there back then, a flash of russet in the trees, before the greys pushed them out in the decade that followed. Beneath our boots, the path was a golden carpet, the first crispy leaves of the season rustling musically with every step we took.

Our destination was the boating lake, known



affectionately to locals as the Perch Ponds due to its legendary abundance of stripeys. To get there, we had to walk past two other waters: the Shoulder of Mutton pond and the Heronry pond. As the Heronry fell behind us, my childhood excitement mounted to a fever pitch. Through the thinning autumn trees, I caught a glimpse of the boating lake, its surface glistening like diamonds in the morning light.

Dad chose a spot halfway down the lakeside, right next to a heavily laden elderberry bush.

"I might try some of them a little later," he said, looking thoughtfully at the dark, ripe clusters.

"Roach like them."

The park was nearly empty, wrapped in a peaceful autumnal stillness. Our only company was a solitary angler tucked into the far corner of the boards, his big umbrella pitched against a slight breeze. What struck me most was the water. It was tap-water clear. I stood on the very edge of the bank, peering down at every individual stone and twig resting on the bed. Occasionally, a tiny shape would flash, a gudgeon, spooked by my sudden movement, darting across the gravel and silty bottom.

Dad set up our rods, and we were fishing in no time. It was a chilly morning, but we had Mum's freshly packed sandwiches and a massive flask of hot tea to keep the cold at bay. Before we even cast a line, a resident robin landed nearby, cocking its head with bold curiosity. I happily tossed it a few maggots from our bait tin. In the decades since that day, I have lost count of how many maggots I have fed to lakeside robins. Along with the brilliant flash of the kingfisher, it remains my absolute favourite bird, acting as a living anchor straight back to the innocent days of my youth.

My weapon of choice that day was a heavy little split-cane rod paired with a shiny brass looking centrepin reel. I fished a tiny, sensitive quill float and a small hook buried in a single maggot. My very first fish was a roach of about four inches. Right there on the bank, Dad patiently taught me how to use a small metal disgorging, showing me how to gently care for the creature I had caught.

Soon, we were both catching roach in a steady rhythm. Then, a shoal of small perch would move in, providing a frantic, spiky burst of action until they drifted off and allowed the roach to take their turn again.

But the true magic of that day belonged to my first ever gudgeon. Holding it gently in my palm, I was mesmerised by the beautiful, glistening speckles shifting colour as the soft autumn light hit its flanks. I was absolutely chuffed. When I slipped it back into that crystal-clear water, I stood frozen, watching it hover on the bottom. It seemed to pause, deciding which way to swim to avoid the predatory perch, before slowly gliding away into the depths. I didn't know then that a few years later I would be catching hundreds of them on a three-metre whip along the River Lea canal system at Cheshunt and Waltham Abbey. To my six-year-old self, that single gudgeon was a prize beyond measure.

Dad kept his promise and tried the elderberries later in the day, but the fish weren't buying it. The roach wanted nothing but our maggots.

As always happens when you are perfectly happy, time flashed by too quickly. We tackled down early to allow plenty of time for the long walk back through the leafy park to meet our cab driver on Blake Hall Road.

Those London journeys became the beautiful blueprint of my childhood. We repeated that trip many times, sometimes venturing further out to the Hollow Ponds at Whipps Cross, where Dad would target the tench and I would catch beautiful rudd on the maggot. They were simple times, typical of the 1960s, but they were everything to me. Every trip was a classroom, every capture a treasure, and every hour spent by the water with my dad a foundational brick in my lifelong love of fishing, a memory that time could never fade.

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Chris Tingley & Craig Tingley will be holding these events. If you don't have one, you are welcome to attend one of the following dates:

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10am Sunday 20th Sept

10am Saturday 17th Oct

10am Saturday 25th Oct

Fisherman Club, Eastbourne

7pm Wed 16th Sept

7pm Wed 21st Oct

To book a date, we need the club you belong to, please either msg via facebook messenger, or e-mail: nickgreenfield1511@gmail.com

On completion you will receive your pike pass.



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Fish of the Month Prize Winner



Teddie - Chequer Tree Fishery 30lb 3oz



Steve Denny - Moorhall Fishery 21lb



Ryan Hemsley - Elphicks plantation lake 23lb Mirror



Freddie Carke - Kent Club Water - 31lb 9oz DNA Baits



Louis Sexton - Hawkhurst Farm Fishery



Adam Elcock - CPAS Stanford - 21lb Mirror



Graham Beale - Two Tone - Old Lake Trickle Brook



Lee Taplin - Kent Club Water 39lb 6oz



Alfie Foad - New Pepper - 21lb 8oz Common



Colin Beddow - Elphicks Kettles lake 30lb Grass Carp (Fly)



Damon Scott - Geddes Hill - 20lb 2oz



Ricky Grindley - Frant Lakes Scaley Mirror

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Winner's Spotlight A huge congratulations to Teddie on landing a stunning 30lb 3oz Zip Linner from Chequer Trees Fishery — our Urban Bait Prize Winner!

Your continued support is what makes these giveaways possible! Stay tuned for next month's prize — you won't want to miss it!



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If you're planning more than just a day session, there's never been a better time to stay. All eight of our holiday chalets, including our sought-after Lakeside Chalets, have recently been fully refurbished, offering modern, comfortable accommodation just moments from the water. It's the perfect base for anglers wanting to enjoy early starts, evening sessions and a relaxing break in the Sussex countryside.

Don't forget to join in our Monthly Photo Competition! Simply share your best catch from Wylands Farm and you'll be entered into our draw in partnership with Swimbooker and our competition sponsor OWAT Baits. Each month, one lucky winner receives a ready-to-fish bait bundle, packed with everything needed to get back on the bank and chase that next personal best.

Whether you're visiting for a few hours, an overnight session or a fishing holiday, we'd love to welcome you to Wylands Farm this summer.



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Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman

Hot, Hot, Hot,

The weather's been hot, the water is hot and the surface fly-fishing has been hot.

It took me a few days to recover from my Spanish adventure, but after a few days at home I became restless, so I decided to stretch my legs and get some fresh air. What could be better than a walk around a lake? I took my bait pouch full of floaters, just for company, you understand.

It didn't take long before I saw some dark shapes just below the surface. Pinging a few floaters just upwind of them, I waited to see their response. At first they seemed disinterested, but then one poked its nose through the surface and as if by magic a floater disappeared. Slowly another joined in and very soon a few others drifted into the area to see what all the fuss was about.

That short walk-about had fired up my enthusiasm again. The itch had returned and it needed scratching soon. As I drove home, I was wondering where I should go. After consulting the XC Weather app, I opted for the easy option; I would go to Sandwich Lake at Elphicks, I knew I'd catch there and with the forecast of heavy rain I knew it wouldn't be busy.

Unsurprisingly I could see carp cruising just subsurface when I arrived. Feeding a mixture of floaters, some 6mm and some 11mm immediately got a reaction. It wasn't very long before several carp were slurping down my free offerings as fast as I fed them. I Fumbled with my fly line as I quickly threaded it through the rod guides. Yes I still get excited at the start of each new session, es-

pecially when the carp are showing such enthusiasm to feed off the surface.

As usual, the first fish took confidently; my fly on this occasion was a dark brown Fulling Mill Disco[9919] which sits low in the surface film. It has a proven track record on this and many other waters I fish. However it quickly lost its appeal, so I switched flies several times before I found another they would accept. Watching the carp's reaction carefully as they approach the fly usually gives me a clue as to what to try next. I find that after the first couple of fish the carp become far more cautious and will often change how they feed, stopping just short of the fly before trying to suck it in, rather than swimming up to it gulping it down and moving on to the next one. This is when it gets really interesting and stretches your imagination as you try to find a solution in order to carry on catching. I finally found the solution, a Fulling Mill Bonio [1772] which sits much higher in the water, creating a much larger footprint in the surface film, and that's what the carp wanted now.

The rain arrived as promised, so I took the opportunity to take a break and have some lunch while sheltering from the worst of the weather. The fishery was taking a summer break for maintenance on most of the lakes, but had decided this year to have limited fishing on Sandwich and Kettles lakes. The combination of this and the predicted rain meant that there was only one other angler fishing today.

Lunch over I took a stroll around Kettles and liked what I saw, so decided to fish the afternoon there. It was like a whole new session with the fish "as keen as mustard" from the start. Disco's were back on the menu again, this time in ivory [9921] with several fish falling to its charms, including a scraper twenty and another just a few ounces under.

I was back in the saddle, so where next?

I decided to try another fishery. I know I'm a bit of a butterfly, flitting from one water to another. I'm always afraid there's a better option just around the corner. I chose Pittlands near Horsmonden [TN12 8HL] for my next session.

I've known the owner Allan Oakeshott, for many years, so I'm not sure why it's taken me so long to visit the fishery. There are three lakes at Pittlands. Lake 'A' is



their pleasure lake, a mixed fishery that guarantees bites. Lake 'B' is a specimen water, stocked with large carp and huge catfish. Lake 'C' is a runs water, with a large stock of carp, bream, perch, roach, chub, ide and large catfish, so you're never sure what you're going to hook next.

The fishing

I took the opportunity to visit the fishery the day before my session. As I walked around the lakes, I talked to as many anglers as possible, trying to glean some useful information. One angler in particular, Lloyd, had found a group of carp suspended 4 ft [120cm] off the bottom in 6 ft [180cm]. He had seen them on his 'Deeper' castable echo sounder. This information was "gold dust", I knew where I wanted to fish and I was convinced zigs and pellet waggler would both be suitable methods.

I arrived early the following morning, eager to get the swim where the carp were holed up. I cast an adjustable zig into the area, set at 4ft [120cm]. I attached a red CC Moore zig bait via a hair-rigged bait screw, positioned off the bend of the hook. My second zig was cast towards the island, also set at 4ft [120cm], but with a black bait. On this rod I had attached the bait using a Nash zig-screw line alligner. I was using these two presentations alongside each other, in an effort to see which offered the best and most consistent conversion rate of bites into hooked fish.

I didn't have to wait long before the right-hand rod, positioned in the "hot spot", was away. Winding down quickly until I felt some weight, I struck. The fish ripped the line off my tightly tensioned drag, speeding across the swim; it was in jeopardy of tangling with the other rod. In the process of passing one rod under the other, the fish came adrift, bummer! By the power and speed, I was pretty sure the culprit was a catfish, and when I checked my hooklink the thick slime was confirmation.

My disappointment didn't last too long, as I had another bite on the same rod, resulting in a mid-double common, shortly followed by another four carp. The wind then

picked up and for some reason the bites stopped completely. As the afternoon drifted into twilight, I started packing up my gear, but not before I sprinkled a few 8mm pellets into a few margin spots around the lake. I now tackled up my pellet waggler rod. As the light faded I dropped into each swim briefly. Not every swim produced a bite, but a couple did, which was a great way to finish off my first session at Pittlands.

After such an exciting introduction to Pittlands, I eagerly anticipated my next session.

I decided to fish the same swim, and again I cast a zig into the same area as previously, baited with a red zig-bait. I was still using a sloppy cloudbait over my zigs, delivered via a small spomb, but only a couple every hour, as I was unsure it was helping. On my second rod I decided to use a pellet waggler. As this session was still early in the season, I had found the carp were lethargic; bites when they came were subtle, not one-toners. I thought the float would give me a better more direct indication.

An early bite on the zig from a mid-double mirror was the



One of Pittland's long commons just over 18lb

confidence booster I needed. I could now relax and enjoy the rest of the day. After the early action I was hoping for more, so when the next couple of hours passed biteless I decided a change was necessary. I replaced the float rod with a zig, this was cast towards the island. I didn't spomb any cloudbait over it though. Instead, I recast the rod every hour into a slightly different position, searching for a bite. If the carp weren't active, I'd take my bait to them. It's great when a plan works, because shortly after re-casts I had a take and caught a small catfish, missed another, and caught a low-double mirror carp. The day had been a lot slower than my first session, but with a bit of imagination and a lot of effort I'd salvaged the day, and added a new tactic to my armoury.

Til' next month, tight lines.

Andy Lush



An upper double on Andy's first visit to Pittlands



**Junior
Competition
Winners**

Kindly sponsored by MFC Outdoor Store
& Fish With Carl



See Page 17 for
more details for
MFC



Fish With Carl

 MFC Store Prize Winner – Harry Williams 



 NEW PB FOR HARRY WILLIAMS! 

Harry Williams has been enjoying a fantastic run of carp recently, with his dad sending his catches in to the Freshwater Informer — and it seems each one is bettering his previous PB!

This stunning Common from Lucks Lane Fishery weighed in at an impressive 22lb 2oz, caught using a spinner rig. 

 Brilliant fishing, Harry — well done on another new PB!  
A big thank you to MFC Outdoor Store for providing Harry with his prize.

We hope you enjoy it! Thank you for sharing your catch with The Freshwater Informer and MFC Baits. We look forward to seeing what you catch next! 

 Congratulations Harry — keep up the great fishing! 

 Fish With Carl Winner: Myles Sullivan 

 Fish With Carl Winner in The Freshwater Informer 

 Well done to Myles Sullivan, who was absolutely over the moon after landing this lovely 22lb Common Carp from Coghurst Hall Holiday park



The fish fell to Floating Crust, proving once again just how effective Simple can be. It's a capture that has given Myles the fishing bug and inspired him to spend even more time on the bank as he continues his angling journey.

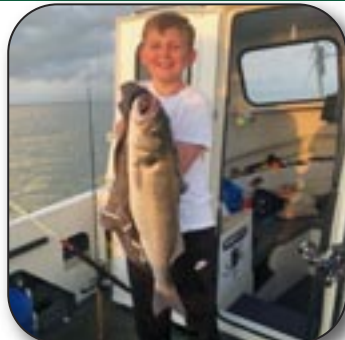
Congratulations, Myles—what a fantastic fish, and here's hoping it's the first of many more memorable captures. Tight lines!  

A big well done to Ava on a fantastic fishing trip— and congratulations on winning a signed Fish With Carl book!





27lb 8oz catfish Quarry Lake - Theo



Alfie Petcher - Sea Bass 7lb 12oz Hernbay



Alfie Petcher - Scroggins Lake 17lb Mirror



James Ridley - Hartley Land Fishery 12lb 8oz



Marc Bridges - Greenacres Farm Fisherry Super Cat Fishing Session



Harry Williams - Lucks Lakes - 18lb 5oz



Joey Lukehurst - Royal Military Canal - 9lb 6oz Pike



Saxon - Mushroom Farm - 7lb 8oz



Zac Leakey Age 8 - Mushroom Farm New Pb 14lb 8oz Common Carp



Oscar Sen-Reeves - Maidstone Victory - 24lb Ghost Carp



Alfie Davis - Sumners Pond - Common carp 12lbs 2oz



Alfie Davis - Sumners Pond - 6lb Ghost



Florence - Knightingales - 10lb 4oz Koi Netted by Arthur and Franklin

THE FRESHWATER TEAM @ ELPHICK'S FISHERY WEST END LAKE 5TH - 6TH AUGUST

We were back at Elphick's Fishery for our last booking of the year, fishing West End Lake on the 5th and 6th August. With the weather still very warm and water levels noticeably down, we really had no idea what to expect from the trip.

Joining me for this one were Alex, Dean — The Legend — and Si Fishes, the YouTube sensation! With just the four of us on the lake, there was plenty of water to go at and, on arrival, we took our time walking around the lake before choosing our swims.

I opted for a corner swim. There was a massive amount of weed in front of me, but I had seen a couple of fish and could get lines to a few likely-looking spots. Dean was on the same bank at the opposite end, fishing opposite one of the islands. Alex opted for the other side of the lake, close to the island, which suited his style of fishing perfectly. Using a centrepin reel loaded with 18lb line, he planned to fish mostly with a float, allowing him to keep a close eye on the water while regularly feeding a few spots to hopefully draw fish into his swim.

Si was opposite me on the far bank, with a few features to go at.

We all took our time leading around and looking for somewhere worth presenting a bait. For me, the first job was dealing with the weed. I used a castable weed rake to clear two spots and remove some of the weed around the areas I wanted to fish. I then used a seed mix I had picked up from Fishon Tackle. Rick at Fishon makes this mix up and uses it for a lot of his own fishing, so I was keen to give it a go. Using my Bushwhacker, I was able to create a bed of particle in the cleared areas and, again with the Bushwhacker, position my rigs directly over the top of the bait.

The wind was blowing from my left towards Dean and away from my margin, which was a big help as there was a lot of floating weed in front of me. Unfortunately, that wouldn't last forever!

Once we all had our baits in position, it was simply a case of waiting and watching.

I was constantly scanning the water for signs of fish. I saw a couple of shows throughout the day, but there wasn't a great deal happening. Dean, however, had seen a fish show more than once in one particular area, so he relocated one of his rods and prepared the spot to fish.

For the rest of us, that was pretty much how the day went.

Alex had fish moving in his area and may even have missed a chance while scanning the water, not realising his float had sailed away. But that's part of the challenge when fishing a lake you've never fished before. None of us had any previous knowledge of

West End, so we were all trying to build a picture of where the fish wanted to be and what they wanted.

Steak for Dinner

As evening approached, I refreshed my spots with another spoonful of particle and made sure everything was fishing as well as I could.

I knew that just one take could make the difference to the trip. Even regular anglers at West End know that the opportunities can be few and far between,

so you have to make the most of every

chance. With

everything sorted, I put

up my shelter. For a

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Dinner was next,

and I had brought a

good steak with me.

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certainly

fills you up!

With dinner sorted and

a cup of tea in hand, I

sat back and watched

the sun disappear on

another incredibly warm

day.

There wasn't a lot to

report.

A Different Day...

I woke to the sunrise and immediately

noticed the wind had

changed. It was now

blowing straight into

my corner of the

lake. This was a bit

of a nightmare. The

floating weed was



now being pushed towards me, catching my lines and pulling my rods out of position. I had managed to clear some of the weed, but keeping everything fishing properly was becoming hard work. Nobody had caught during the night, but around 8:30am Dean was suddenly into a fish. I reeled in and headed over to help, but Dean had already done the hard work and had the carp safely swimming in the net.

We got the unhooking mat, camera equipment and everything else sorted before carefully lifting the fish onto the mat. I looked into the net and immediately thought it was a big fish. It looked like it could be a low to mid thirty.

Once it was out of the water, its belly seemed to grow — a bit like mine after the steak and baguette the night before!

It was clearly a very good fish, and I knew it was going to be a new PB for Dean. We got everything ready for the weigh-in and watched the needle climb. **39lb 8oz!**

Just shy of the magical 40lb mark, but what a magnificent carp all the same — and a fantastic new PB for Dean. After a few photos, Dean carefully returned her to the lake and she gracefully disappeared back into the depths. A few well-deserved congratulations followed, but I'll admit it — seeing that fish made me even more determined to get one of my own!

Close but No Cigar

With my rods back out, I settled in and waited. We all did. The wind was still pushing into my corner and, as the morning went on, I started seeing more and more fish showing. In fact, at one point I genuinely thought that 90% of the lake's stock was sitting out in front of me! Unfortunately, so was the weed.

Getting a bait to them and, more importantly, keeping everything fishing properly was becoming increasingly difficult. Before long, the weed would attach itself to the lines and start causing problems.

Dean eventually came down to my swim for a break.

Since his capture, his area had gone completely quiet.

But when he reached me, he soon realised why.

Fish were everywhere. Mostly on top. We both sat there

watching them, trying to work out what was happening,

when suddenly my middle rod started to pull. I was

fishing over the particle with a chod rig. The line pulled,

stopped and then fell back. I initially thought it was just

the weed moving around, but it happened again. And

again. So I decided enough was enough and lifted into

it. The line felt heavy. Really heavy. I started pulling in

what felt like the biggest bundle of weed I'd ever seen.

As it came closer, I suddenly saw a fish about a metre

and a half from the bundle. Then I saw it again. And

again. I actually had a fish on! My heart rate immediately

went through the roof. I wasn't really sure what to do

because there was so much weed attached to every-

thing, but slowly I managed to get it closer and closer.

Eventually, the whole lot was beached in my swim. The

fish was still on. I got into the water and started trying to

clear the weed from the line. There was an unbelievable

amount of it. I worked my way down towards the leader and then, in an instant, my heart sank. The fish had gone. Gutted doesn't really cover it. The weed had beached, the line was running out from the back of it and the fish had managed to escape. But there was one positive. I had hooked one. The method had worked. The bait had worked. The spot had worked. It was just the final part that hadn't gone to plan.

I'll never know exactly how big that fish was, but it could have been a new PB or, at the very least, a very good West End carp sitting safely in the net.

With that, I slowly started packing away as it was getting close to the time we needed to leave anyway. As I packed up, I couldn't help but think about what I could have done differently. The truth is, I'm not sure there was much I could have done. With that amount of weed, the only real solution would probably have been getting out there with a boat and dealing with it from above — something obviously not available to us.

So, a lesson was learned. And that's fishing. Despite the blank for me, Alex and Si, it was still an enjoyable trip, and Dean's new PB certainly gave us something to celebrate. For this trip, it was really the Local Carping Legends who took the honours, with Dean walking away with a magnificent new 39lb 8oz PB and a fish that will certainly be remembered.

Si Fishes has also put together a video of our trip, so you'll be able to see the action for yourself on his YouTube channel, with the video also being linked through our Facebook page. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose — and sometimes you lose a very good fish in a mountain of weed! But that's fishing, and I'll be back for the next one.



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Lee - kingfisher lake Mousehole Fishery - 35lb



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Steve - Kingfisher - 24lb Common



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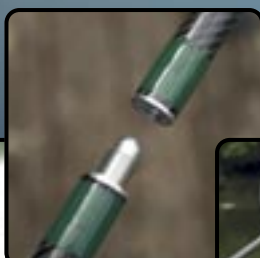
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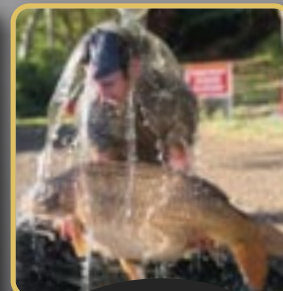
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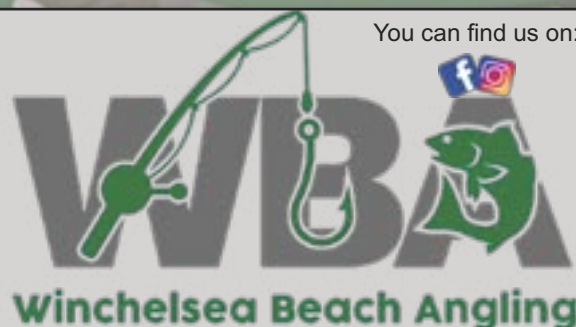
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The Medway Man

Bob Morris

Has anyone seen a grasshopper recently?

Has anyone seen a grasshopper recently? I have been looking around at every venue that I've fished this summer and can honestly say that I have not seen one! In fact, they have been extremely thin on the ground for years!! We don't see any in our garden these days either which tends to indicate that they have become virtually extinct!! I remember in my youth that we used to have several different species in our garden and I would often feed them to my pet lizard, come to think of it I have not seen any (once common) Lizards for years. This is almost certainly because of intensive agricultural practices – pesticides, weed killer etc. I know that this is a fishing column, but I am finding that the decline of many species of birds, mammals, reptiles and insects is something that increasingly occupies my mind these days and although there are undoubtedly many schemes and projects on the go now attempting to halt and even reverse this trend I do worry that it may already be too late for many and we will lose valuable parts of our diversity of wildlife and environment!

No let up in the heatwave conditions in the south of the country now and it seems that there is little prospect of any serious rain on the horizon yet. The southeast seems to have escaped the worst as far as the water table goes because of the wet



winter/ early spring
topping up the underground aquifers but even so most lakes are now an average of a foot to eighteen inches down in the area and rivers are

extremely low. Many ditches and streams are now dry with a considerable loss of habitat for small fish, insects and amphibians. We can only

hope that when rain does eventually arrive, it is of a steady nature, rather than a raging torrent which will just run off – causing flash floods! On the fishing front I have now suffered a couple of blanks (a night and a day session) which may have been due to weather conditions or could just be my poor choice of location. The fact that I saw little movement anywhere from tench, bream or carp etc, does however support the former theory. This great pastime of ours that we call angling has a way of bringing you back down to earth with a bump every time you start to feel that you have got it sussed and are getting to the point where you believe that you can do no wrong. I said last time that I was starting to get 'All Tenched out' and maybe a bit of a reality check was needed. They say that Pride cometh before a fall' and it seems that the fishing game is often a prime example of this. A good kick up the bottom in the form of a



couple of blank trips will hopefully get me back on track and into the puzzle-solving mode again. There are many ways to do this and changing the timing of a session is a good place to start. Although the hot conditions continue, it is often the case that as the year progresses and the days get shorter that water temps start to fall, even as early as mid-to late august. Daytime temps have been up around 30 degrees again this last week, but I have noticed that they have been dropping back to 10 or lower by dawn and this will soon have an effect. In theory this should mean that after dark fishing will become more productive but as mentioned previously, I have had some of my best sessions with the tench during the midday heat. This may have been due to a higher metabolism or fish trying to quickly get back into condition after spawning but it looks like this phase of their behaviour is over for now. I have usually found that tench become much easier to catch in spring /early summer and often there is a noticeable lull in the action during the July-September period. Another potential reason for it is that this is also the peak time for Mosquitos (Bastards) to



breed. Their larval stages (bloodworm etc) are plentiful - often causing a preoccupation and this frequently affects carp, bream and other fish as well. Although I have often heard it said that you are better off using more natural baits such as maggots, worms, muscles etc, during these spells I can only say that I have not found this to be the case and neither has a change to smaller baits made any noticeable improvement.

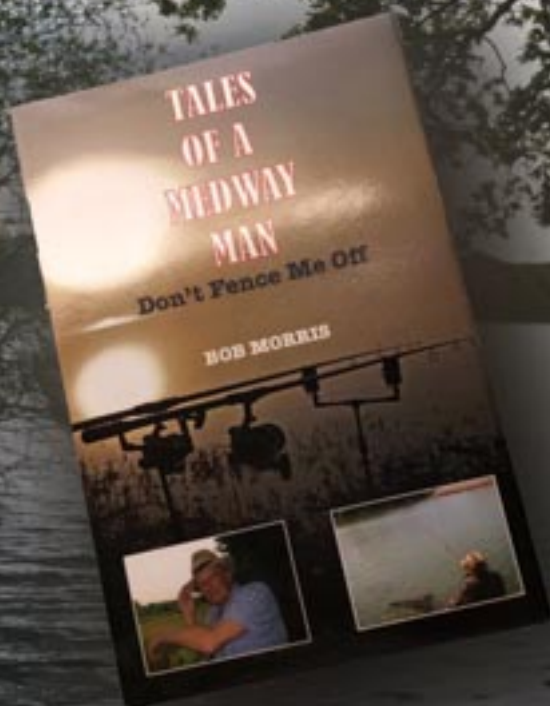
The good thing about these difficult spells is that it gets you trying harder again. One reliable guide I find is the number of liners that I am getting. If I have got the location right and the problem is preoccupation, I will still be getting false bites from fish bumping the lines. If this is not happening, the chances are that I am in the wrong place and should move.

I will be more observant during my next few sessions just to see if I can make a difference and get back to some consistent action again.

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