FRESHWATER INFORMER

Issue 351 - November 2026



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Welcome to the November 2026 edition of The Freshwater Informer

Following on from our bumper 30th Anniversary Edition, which took a huge amount of time, effort and energy to put together, I have to say I'm relieved to finally have it out there for you all to enjoy! The feedback so far has been fantastic, and it's been great to hear from stockists who have already run out of copies and are asking for more. That really does make all the hard work worthwhile.

However, behind the scenes, the reality of producing the magazine month after month is becoming increasingly challenging. Like many small businesses, we're feeling the pressure of rising costs, and making ends meet is not always easy. I've always tried to keep advertising rates as affordable as possible, giving fisheries, tackle shops and angling businesses the opportunity to reach our readership without breaking the bank.

Unfortunately, advertising bills that go unpaid make things even harder, and it all adds to the pressure of keeping the magazine going. I remain committed to doing everything I can to keep The Freshwater Informer alive and available to anglers, but I could really do with some additional support from genuine advertisers who believe in what we do and want to help keep this magazine going for the future.If you run a fishery, tackle shop or an angling-related business and would like to reach a dedicated audience of anglers, please consider advertising with us. Every advert makes a difference and helps towards the costs of producing and distributing the magazine each month.

Despite the challenges, I'm proud of what we've achieved, especially as we celebrate 30 years of The Freshwater Informer. This magazine has always been about anglers sharing their catches, stories and experiences, supporting local fisheries and tackle shops, and bringing our angling community together.



As always, a huge thank you to everyone who reads, shares and supports The Freshwater Informer. Your continued support means a great deal to me and helps make everything possible.

I'm already working hard behind the scenes to bring you even more great content throughout 2026 and 2027 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.I hope you enjoy this month's edition,

Have a great Month tight lines to you all

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The Freshwater Informer
email: info@freshwaterinformer.com

COPY DEADLINE for December 2026 Magazine
Friday 20th November 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



John skinner - 24lb Old Lake Common



Luke Austin - 25lb10oz Mirror - New Lake



Tricklebrook - New Lake - Lovely Brace Shot



Perry cressey - 24.5lb Common



Tricklebrook - This was stocked @ 20lb 8oz now 29lb 8oz



Tricklebrook - A Fish that 36 months ago was 21lb now 29lb 2oz



Ricky - Specimen Lake - 41lb 12oz Common PB



Jake - Specimen Lake - 36lb 6oz Common PB



Dove Lake - Callum Spittle group - 29lb Common



Adam Beaven - Specimen Lake - 24lb scaley



34lb Common - Specimen Lake - Lee Marston



66lb catfish - Dove lake -Tom Dangerfield

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LAKE RULES

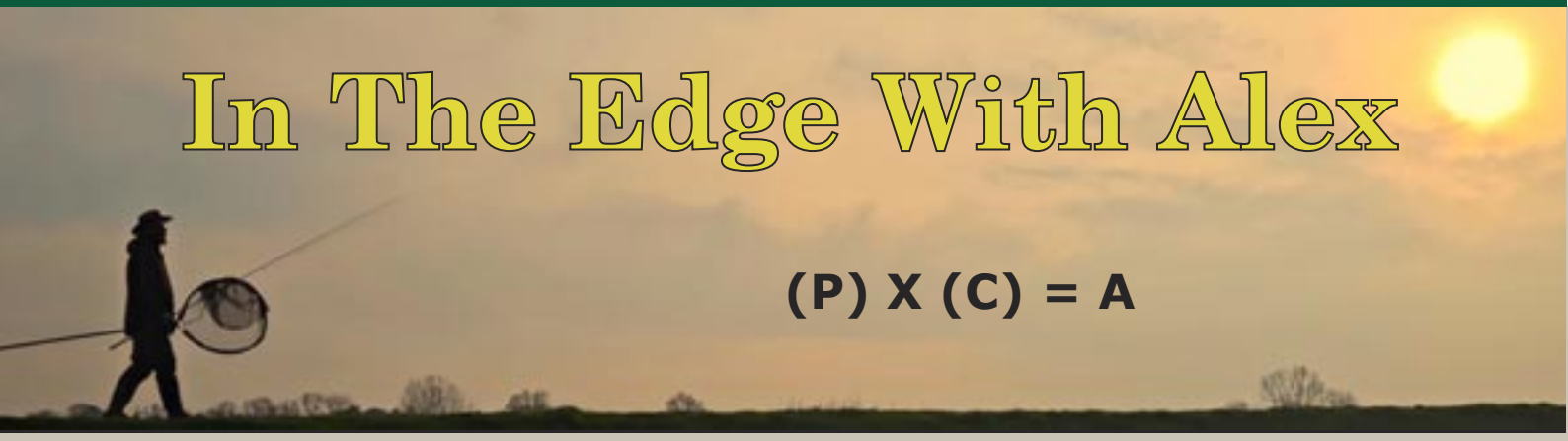
1. A TICKET MUST BE PURCHASED BEFORE FISHING
2. ALL NETS, UNHOOKING MATS AND WEIGH SLINGS MUST BE DRY BEFORE DIPPING IN THE DISINFECTANT BATHS
3. NO NUTS OR PARTICLE
4. BOILIE AND PELLET ONLY FOR SPECIMEN AND BACK LAKE - ALL BAIT WILL BE INSPECTED
5. ALL FISH MUST BE RETURNED TO THE WATER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING CAPTURE. NO STANDING. FISH MUST BE HELD LOW OVER A MAT/CRADLE FOR PHOTOGRAPHS
6. MINIMUM 15LB LINE AND NO BRAIDED MAIN LINE
7. NO SACKING OR RETAINING OF FISH IS PERMITTED. THE REMOVAL OF FISH FROM THIS VENUE WILL BE VIEWED AS A CRIMINAL ACT
8. EACH ANGLER MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF 42 INCH LANDING NET AND A LARGE PADDED UNHOOKING MAT/CRADLE REGARDLESS OF TARGET SPECIES ON SPECIMEN AND BACK LAKE
9. BARBLESS HOOKS ONLY
10. NO LEAD CORE, NO FUSED LEADERS OF ANY KIND INCLUDING SAFEZONE
11. NO FIXED LEAD RIGS. ALL LEADS MUST PASS FREELY OVER LEADER KNOTS. RIG CHECKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT
12. RECREATIONAL DRUGS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED - IMMEDIATE BAN FOLLOWS
13. PLEASE INFORM FISHERY MANAGEMENT OF ANY SNAGGED TACKLE OR FISH
14. ANY FISH OVER 28LB MUST BE REPORTED TO BAILIFF
15. NO DOGS ALLOWED
16. BARBECUES ALLOWED IF OFF THE GROUND
17. NO BAIT BOATS
18. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY OF THE RULES WILL RESULT IN BEING ASKED TO LEAVE AND/OR BANS WHERE APPROPRIATE AND NO REFUND WILL BE OFFERED
19. TRICKLEBROOK IS NOW OPERATING A ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY TO ANY ACTS OF AGGRESSION OR ABUSE TOWARDS ITS BAILIFFS AND STAFF
20. ALL RUBBISH TO BE TAKEN HOME

CCTV IN OPERATION OVER WHOLE SITE

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

TRICKLEBROOK FISHERY

In The Edge With Alex



(P) X (C) = A

According to Google, I am middle aged. According to my ever growing list of aches, pains, and ailments that feels like an incredibly optimistic assessment. The one thing that we do agree on is that my 'prime', whenever that may have been, is little more than a distant memory.

However, the one thing that remains completely un-diminished is my passion for angling, which is why on my birthday, rather than fancy meals or social gatherings, I was heading out, rod in hand, for a days fishing.

It might be due to my advancing years, but it must be said that I hadn't put a great deal of thought into where I was heading and simply jumped into the van and set off in the general direction of the A21, on the assumption that the literal forest of roadworks and traffic lights would provide ample time for inspiration to strike. I was slightly more decisive about the species that I was after – Perch, and as I sat at a junction I ran through potential fisheries in my head. Turn left for Elphicks, Tricklebrook, or Pittlands. Turn right for Hawkhurst, Knightingales, or Iden Wood. Traffic inched forwards and I needed to make a choice. Left, right, Knightingales, Elphicks, decisions, decisions...

Iden Wood, final answer. I turned right. I could only assume that these most recent set of roadworks were to add more potholes to the already patchwork quilt of tarmac, as I shuddered along the carriageway.

Thirty minutes, two chipped teeth, three more sets of temporary traffic lights, and a random detour later, I pulled into the fishery entrance and made my way down through the trees towards the lakes. The specimen lake opened out before me and my heart sank. The water was at least two feet down with great swathes of the margins exposed. Still, I was here now. I should at least make the effort. With most of the perchy looking features high and dry, I elected to fish an open water swim. My float rod was still set up from a previous session and I flicked it out. It promptly disappeared. I added a foot and cast again, still it sunk from view. Six feet deep at three rod lengths out had me feeling a whole lot better about things. I added a whole king prawn as a hookbait, cast out, and started catapulting out a steady stream of maggots.

The venue owner, Andy Ashdown, appeared. He's got quarter of a century on me but still maintains a level of energy and enthusiasm that puts many a younger man to shame. We chatted about the need for rain, the state of the rivers and the history of the FWI, of which he was an integral part during its formative years. I'd reeled in my float, but still continued to fire out maggots as we spoke. Once we'd sufficiently put the world to rights, he was off. Places to be, things to do, never missing a beat. I almost felt guilty that I was just sitting around enjoying the autumn sunshine.

Despite the cool and misty start to the day, the sun was now climbing in the sky and making its presence felt. If there was a feeding spell it would soon be over, and if there were perch in front of me, then they would soon be gone.

I cast out again and picked up the catapult. I was just pulling back on the elastic to release the third pouch of maggots when the float glided away to the right. In time honoured fashion I let go of everything all at once and fumbled for the rod. Rapped knuckles, a boot full of maggots, and the pulse of a disgruntled fish out in the depths. The fact that it took line, combined with the nature of the bite, convinced me that I'd hooked a carp. I pushed the rod as far out from the bank as I dare as the fish kitted towards the margins. The resistance lost intensity and, as the fish came to the surface, instead of a common or mirror, it was stripes and spikes that I saw. A birthday perch, and a good sized one at that. A bit of to-ing and fro-ing at the net, with a few head shakes thrown in for good measure, and I was able to land my prize. At two and a quarter pounds, it was hopefully a sign of things to come.

With the pressure off, the sun directly overhead, and a feeling that action would be sparse until evening, I went for a look around the complex. Whilst not good for fishing, low water levels will



often reveal interesting features that might well become hotspots once the rains return. It's a great opportunity to take pictures make notes, and build up a mental image for later in the season. I studied the pools either side of the specimen lake for future reference. On my travels I encountered an eel angler from the West Country. Whilst they give me the heebie-jeebies (eels, not people from the West Country...) I do find them fascinating creatures, and this chap was a mine of information with real insight and passion for the species. Very interesting, and almost enough for me to try and overcome my phobia of them and cast a line in their direction. In another swim I met a chap named Tim, who was landing a steady procession of decent sized carp. Conversions with newer carpers tend to revolve around How many? How big? What bait? Conversions with the 'Old Skool' are far more subtle. Mention a name, gauge a reaction, establish each other's angling credentials. The Don, Tired Mick, Posh Tom, The Pretty Boys. It turned out that we had moved in overlapping circles and within minutes were waxing lyrical about the good 'ole days and 'What ever happened to...?'

By now the sun had cleared the lake and was dipping below the tree line to the west. I left Tim to his fishing and made my way back around to my swim. On the way I spotted a pair of carp in the margins, a common that was comfortably over twenty pounds, along with the shadowy outline of an even bigger mirror. For a moment I was tempted to fish for them, but I didn't really have the tackle for it and access to their hidey-hole was limited to say the least. Instead, I carried on to where I had been fishing and started firing out the remainder of the maggots. Fifteen minutes after that, I followed with the hookbait, and fifteen minutes after that I had a sharp jag on the float. A second dip, followed by a fast pull, was all the encouragement that I needed to strike. A perch bite for sure. Unlike the first, this fish swam straight to my feet. Leaning into it as it reached the margins, I suddenly found myself eyeball to eyeball with a rather large common. In fact, I would put good money on it been the fish that I had seen a little earlier on my way back to the swim. It's not uncommon for large carp to behave this way when hooked on lighter tackle, as if the lack of pressure is mildly inconvenient, rather than the all out war of heavier gear. That was until I introduced the landing net into the equation. At which point the carp powered off on an unstoppable run. Having proved its point, it allowed me to reel it straight back to the bank, only to repeat the same trick again. We went through this rigmarole half a dozen times more before I got the angles sorted and the fish powered into the net instead of across the lake. Despite not been the target species, I couldn't help but be impressed. From its immaculate scales to shovel like tail, truly a fish for the ages. At a shade over 24lb 7ozs, one of the biggest commons that I've landed in recent times, and a great way to round off my day. It was only as I returned it and started to pack up that I realised that the weight of the perch, multiplied by the weight of the carp, happened to total the birthday that I was celebrating.

Maybe next year I'll be old enough to hook the big mirror that I saw...



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Callum Irland - 30lb 4oz Prairie Lake



Gary Boyd - 15lb 10oz - Kettles Lake



Dennis Brooker - 48lb 4oz - North Lake



Joe Simona - 23lb 5oz Kettles



Don O'Brian 33lb 2oz Common Prairie Lake



Jim Jenner - 34lb 5oz - Prairie Lake

15 MINUTES FROM THE M20
10 MINUTES FROM THE A21

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This beautiful setting needs to be visited and enjoyed!

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

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Dexter First Catfishing Trip (Ebro)

Dexter managed to land a fantastic 70lb Wels catfish near Miravet on the River Ebro. He also caught a lovely 19lb common carp during the trip.

Young Guns on the Bank

Team MFC

We have Louis Sexton who has been reaping the rewards from his Syndicate Lake with this stunning 37lb 12oz Mirror

And Toby and Jacob are locked in to a fierce battle of the brothers both with 20lb + fish to show for there efforts.









Dan Smith - Managing a new species to his impressive list of capture from Maidstone Town Center with this 2lb 8oz Tench

Iden Wood Fishery

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

Tel/Fax: Andy Ashdown
01797 280180
Mobile:
07906 232225

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Night fishing booking from £30 per night and Day sessions from £10. Maximum 2 rods

Fishing Tale Films



My Season Has Just Started

Firstly I would like to say what a great special edition last months FWI magazine was, what a great way to celebrate 30 years anniversary of a magazine that anglers have become to love and enjoy. Well done to Glen Relf for piecing everything together and to all the contributors, it must have took Glen many long hours and extra hard work to get the special edition out there for everyone to enjoy.

My season has only really started to take off as I took a backseat during the very hot summer months we have just had as like many other anglers I simply do not enjoy fishing in that heat plus many water closed due to low water levels and poor oxygen quality. The rivers although improving still look sorry for themselves especially in the South East but I am sure now the weather has cooled some much needed rain will bring our much loved rivers back into life. With only two trips to my local river all season I headed off back to Whinwhistle Fishery near East Wellow for a mini stay in their Shepherds Hut with the sole intention of just fishing their section of the River Blackwater which is classed as a spate river.
I stuck to my plan and fished only the river and despite it being low as expected and I split my day up into morning sessions and late afternoon/early evening as the sun was out and temperatures at midday into the low 20 degrees C.

I filmed my sessions of course for my YouTube channel FISHING TAIL FILMS and by the time this edition goes to print many video episodes of the trip will be available to watch of which I hope you enjoy.

I mostly roved the river as that seemed the best plan to keep the bites and fish coming as the river was clear and low in many parts so hooking a few fish obviously spooked them out of the swim. Using a stick float set up, a small 10ft quiver tip rod and link leger tactics kept the bites coming on various sessions and I also had a little try out on the centre pin as well for something a bit different as I do tend to stick to a close faced reel for most of my float river fishing. Without giving too much away in case you want to watch the videos on the channel I had a real variety of species over the early and late sessions which was great to see including roach, perch, dace, rudd, gudgeon, grayling and some lovely looking wild trout. The beauty of fishing a river is you never know what is going to come after the next bite. The River Blackwater is a beautiful little narrow river with plenty of tree cover and margin growth, including masses of stinging nettles as I found to my cost but thankfully there were some dot leafs about to ease the pain and sting. The birds were out in force especially the Robins and Wrens of which in the early mornings were singing to their hearts content. There is nothing better sitting by a river listening to the sound of running water rolling over some shallow stones and birds singing away in the trees tops above with squirrels chasing each other in the network of branches. It really is magic.



The EAST END ANGLER Book

Whilst I have not been out fishing as much as I would normally do it has given me the opportunity to finish off a book I have been writing over the past year or so. Called The East End Angler (after me being born in the East End of London back in the early 60s) subtitle – from Wanstead Park to Iconic Waters. The book is about some of my very early memories of fishing with my Dad who introduced me to fishing at the age of just 2 years old and from then on as I grew into my teenage years my solo exploits of fishing some of the lakes around East London especially the boating lake, better known as Perch Ponds at Wanstead Park. Over 4 mile walks there and back did not stop me from casting a float in the pursuit of catching fish. I also spent much time fishing the canals of the River Lea, notably Waltham Abbey and Cheshunt and I recall some stories of those days including a big Pike I caught and the little humble gudgeon. A long walk, two bus rides carrying all my gear which was a wicker basket, rod holdall and net bag to fish was common place for me and many other anglers back around the time. We were not distracted by mobile phones, computers and games we had to make our own entertainment and playing football and going fishing was my main source of entertainment and I loved every second of it. As I grew older and passed my driving test in Barking, Essex on Friday the 13th, which is why 13 is my lucky number. A whole new range of fishing opportunities arose for me and in the book I account some of the special places I fished and still do to this day in most cases. Some of the special fish I have caught are remembered in the book as well as the family f ishing caravan holidays of the 70s along the coasts of Kent which I am sure will bring back many youthful memories that we all enjoyed in those very special and different days.

I am expecting the book The East End Angler to be out before Christmas and pre order sales are going very well which is very encouraging. The book is limited to just 150 copies and each book will be signed and numbered so if you are interest in buying a copy the cost is £22.50 which includes postage and packaging.

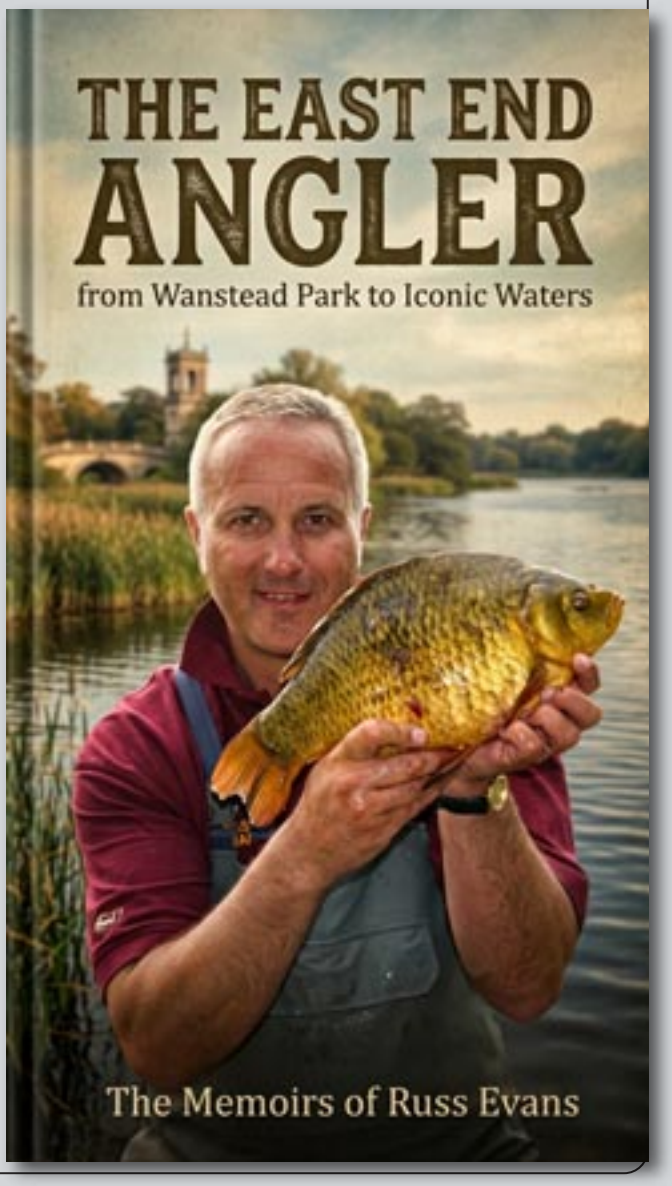
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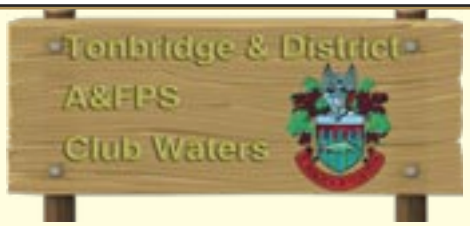
Now that autumn is well and truly underway that means one thing to me, time to get the Perch gear out again as well as those prawns and lobworms. Target is a brace of 4lbs Perch which would be an awesome sight to see. The 11ft Darent Valley rods with a 0.75 test curve paired up with my Shimano 4000 Stradics loaded with either 4 or 6lbs Hydro green mainline supporting a perch bobber is my main method as I just love to see that float bob before sliding away out of sight and feeling that rod arc over to a thumping head shake of a big Perch.

Good luck with your up and coming sessions whatever species you are fishing for.

Until next time, Tight Lines

Russ Evans





14 miles of River and 7 Lakes containing:

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🎣 A NEW PB FOR PAUL JACKMAN! 🎣

A fantastic session for Paul Jackman, who managed to land a new personal best weighing an impressive 38lb 8oz!

🏆 Natalie Jackman was also in on the action, landing a stunning 33lb 4oz mirror carp and another cracking fish at 34lb 6oz!

💥 A brilliant result for them both, with some fantastic carp on the bank. Congratulations to Paul and Natalie on some memorable captures!

👏 Well done to you both, and thanks for sharing your catches with **The Freshwater Informer.**

URBAN

Fish of the Month Prize Winner



Joshua Spencer - 31lb Mirroe MVAD Water Bon Fleur

FRESHWATER INFORMER

This competition is open to all species. To be in with a chance of winning, send your catches to: **info@freshwaterinformer.com** or our Facebook Page,Winners will receive a:

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🎣 Winner's Spotlight 🎣 A huge congratulations to **Joshua Spencer** on landing a stunning 31lb Mirror from Bon Fleur - Maidstone — 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!



Wayne Gates - Manards 30lb 4oz Common



Joe Stone - Sandwich Lake Elphicks - 14lb Ghost Carp



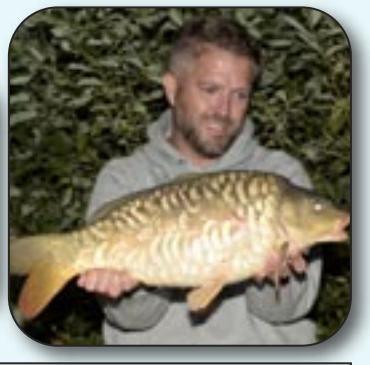
Jack Driver - Embryo Gordons- 32lb Mirror



Rob Neville - Hartley Lands 30lb 8oz Common







James Flashman Lovelace Farm Fishery - Besthersden - A lovely selection from lake one at lovelace - biggest of the trip was 22lb



Olive carr - Shirkoak Fishery 10lb Pike



Billy Lloyd - Combe Bank Fishery - Common Carp



Ryan Hemsley - Cackle hill speci.2 - 22lb Mirror



Leigh Philip Graves - West Ashby - 26lb Mirror

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We've recently made improvements to Rosie's Lake, where our fishing pods have been repositioned to create more space between swims, giving anglers greater comfort during overnight sessions and longer stays. It's a simple change that's made a big difference to the overall fishing experience.

Our onsite tackle shop continues to expand too. We're proud to now stock leading brands including Korda and Gardner Tackle, alongside a wide selection of bait, terminal tackle and fishing essentials. Whether you've forgotten something at home or fancy trying the latest products, our shop has everything you need before heading to the lakes.

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.

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Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman

Autumn: the time for change, or was it?

As the days got shorter, I felt the surface carp fishing season was coming to an end. I started to ponder whether I should start trying zigs again or maybe the pellet waggler.

Cold nights and misty mornings saw the surface layers of water cool rapidly, but lower down the water temperature, although cooling, was still warm enough to keep the carp active and close to the surface, which made sub-surface methods a viable option.
I have to admit that although these seemed sensible options, my heart really wasn't in it. I was still hoping the warming sun, once it had burnt the mist off, would warm the water sufficiently for carp to be mooching in the upper layers. So my fly tackle was still an option, which I would employ if I saw the slightest surface activity. This summer's fly-fishing has been extremely successful and I was reluctant to stop just yet.

My game plan
I decided that rather than sit and wait for hours for the water to warm, I would start with two rods on zigs. I didn't spomb over them, in case it disturbed any fish that might be lurking in my swim. I intended to wait and see if the carp would indeed feed off the surface when the sun finally broke through. Who knows, I might even nick a bonus fish on the zig.

So around midday I started pinging a few floaters out, watching the water intently for any indications of carp. Forty years of trout fishing have honed my skill in reading the surface water's ripples. Often I'll see the presence of fish without actually seeing them, just the mere suggestion; a slight change in the pattern of the ripple can be enough to know they're there.

Once I start seeing them responding to my loose feed, I'd tackle up my fly rod and tie on a fly. But which one? Observing how the carp approach the floaters would give me a clue. If they're swimming sub-surface, horizontally towards the bait, I would pick a fly that sits on top of the surface; however, if the carp are coming up vertically from underneath, pausing before trying to suck it in, I would select a fly that sits much lower in the surface film, with part of its body beneath.


Ballast Pit 2026 July 8th 26lb

Get the feeding right, makes catching easy!
My good friend James Gardner is a master of this tactic. It's something I'm getting much better at, but I'm never going to compete at his level.

By watching how the carp respond, tells me everything I need to know. The old adage of feeding "little and often" still holds true, I also think about the frequency of topping up too. I start by introducing large floaters which make a lot of noise when they land; this draws carp into my swim. The fish are curious but are often not intent on feeding at this point. This is when I switch to feeding some mini floaters. I'll trickle-feed small amounts of mini 4mm floaters. The change in the carp's response is quite remarkable; rather than mouthing the baits aimlessly, they start poking their lips through the surface, sucking them in, first one or two before they get really excited and start "packmaning" them. This activity soon triggers other fish to "come and see" what's going on, before they join in, with this competition, it's "game on".

Lessons learnt
I've learnt not to feed too many mini floaters, for two reasons. First, the carp can get preoccupied with these small baits. This can lead them to shying off my flies that imitate larger floaters. Secondly, these smaller baits drift much quicker than the large floaters, and as they spread out the carp do too. To prevent these problems I still feed a few large floaters, to make sure the carp will still accept my large flies, which I can see easily, and also to hold the fish in my swim.
One final thing worth mentioning, I've found it far more

successful to draw the carp to my fly by feeding directly over it. Casting your fly directly at fish that can be seen taking freebies is a tactic that can work, usually early in the season, but this late in the year it's more likely to spook them.


Tricklebrook 2026 June 15th 26lb

My surface fly-fishing

Looking back through my fishing diary, I caught my first carp in late April. I managed very few trips in May due to other fishing plans, including a pike fly-fishing trip to Chew Valley reservoir, a wrasse lure fishing trip to South Devon, and a barbel and carp fly-fishing trip to Spain.

On my return from Spain, it took a few days to regain my appetite for fishing. Venturing out for the first time, I wasn't really excited; that was until I hooked my first fish. That was all it took for me to become totally obsessed again, often fishing three days a week. Something I like to do is visit lots of different waters. Every water's carp react slightly differently, so I have to adapt my tactics to succeed. This challenges me and motivates me to improve my methods and understanding of what's going on beneath the surface.


Kettles 2026 October 26lb 8oz

A successful season

I've caught more carp fly-fishing this year than ever before; the excitement of seeing a fish approach your fly before it either takes it or rejects it is a heart-stopping moment when you hold your breath in anticipation. The size of the culprit, in that moment doesn't matter, all that does matter is you hook the fish. It's only later that you consider its size. I've been lucky this year to have caught twenties from nine different waters. Believe it or not, I've even learnt a few things that will increase my success rate in the future. This is what keeps me as eager as ever to continue surface fishing this late in the year, whatever the weather.

In fact, I often pick wet-weather days to go fishing, when most sane anglers decide to stay at home. This gives me the freedom to move swims, in an effort to find feeding fish, especially if my first choice swim has failed to produce. Recently this has been an essential tactic, when a quiet morning has turned into a hectic afternoon, after I've moved swims.


Iden Wood 2026 Aug 5th 17lb 8oz

The joy of sharing

Undoubtedly the number of fly anglers discovering that carp can be caught on their fly tackle has been a real joy for me. The local Tunbridge Wells Fly Fishing Society of which I'm a member has embraced carp fly-fishing in a big way. The club has always mentored fly anglers, helping them improve their skills. The club hosts events on a variety of waters, up until recently just for trout, but it now hosts three days of carp fly-fishing on Sandwich Lake at Elphicks. These fun days have seen anglers swapping flies and information while helping newcomers to catch their first carp! Long may this continue.

Until next month, tight lines.

Andy Lush

Junior Competition Winners

Kindly sponsored by MFC Outdoor Store & Fish With Carl

Back Page for more details for MFC

Fish With Carl

MFC Store Prize Winner – Bailey Hardiman Hills



NEW PB FOR Bailey Hardiman Hills

A massive well done to Bailey Hardiman Hills with a 22lb mirror carp from Normanhurst Estate.

Caught using a Terry Hearn parrot hair rig with two Cult Coated Monster Shrimp 15mm bottom baits. After casting to the far bank and baiting with around 15 baits, a single beep on the R4 Siren signalled the bite. As the fish got closer, Bailey recognized her straight away as the lake's "Big Mirror".

Brilliant fishing, Joshua — 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!

Fish With Carl Winner: Paisley-Rae Thompson

Fish With Carl Winner in The Freshwater Informer



WINNER

Fish With Carl Winner – Paisley-Rae Thompson

Congratulations to 11-year-old Paisley-Rae Thompson, who caught this fantastic 5lb pike from the River Medway in Maidstone while lure fishing along the far margin.

A brilliant catch and a well-deserved win in the Fish With Carl competition. Well done, Paisley-Rae!

congratulations on winning a signed Fish With Carl book!



Oskar - Darenth Fishery 38lb Cat Fish



Albert Holmes - Local Club Lake - 24lb Mirror



Monty - Marshside Fishery - 9lb 8oz



Oliver Caterr - Baldwins Lake - 17lb Common



Harvey Williams - 23lb Common Elphicks Kettles



Vinnie Harman - Tricklebrook - New Speci



Nathan Savill - Beaver Fishery - 17lb 10oz



James Ridley - Nordens green farm CDAA



James Ridley - Nordens Green Farm CDAA



Riley taylor - Glades Sid-cup - 24lb Grass Carp



Justin Kelly - Churchwood - 70lb Catfish



Justin Kelly - Churchwood - 50lb Catfish



Noah Norman - Kettles Elphickd Fishery 30lb



Remy Jensen age 12 28lb 8oz - PB Cackle Hill Fisheries



Logan Buchanan - Quarry Lake, Hawkhurst Fishery 35lb PB





Mark Day has started his Pike Fishing Season float legered mackerel season



Mathew Hammond River Caught Perch 3lb 1oz



Robert Edmunds - 4lb 10oz Tench Hartleylands Fishery



Ronald Davis Hawkhurst Fishery with his son Terry



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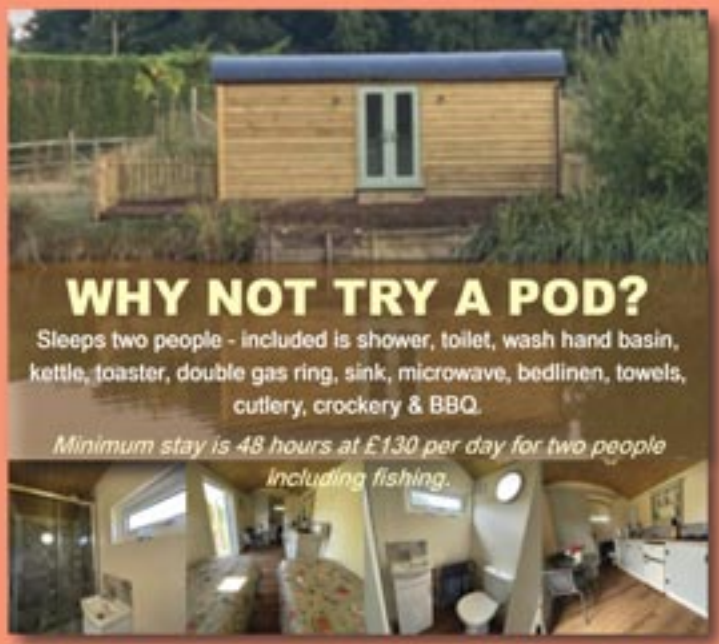
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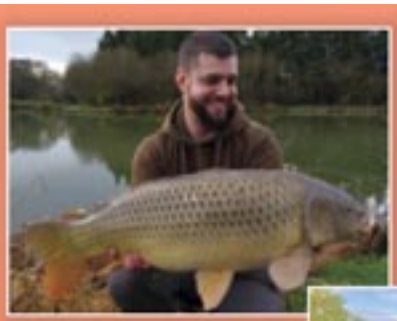


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The Medway Man

Bob Morris

Medway Man -November 2026

In the last 30th anniversary issue of FI, as part of my story 'In 'Days of Old' I told how the arrival of my lifelong friend Fred Wilton, onto the scene during the mid/late sixties, revolutionised the Carp fishing world with his bait theories and invention of what we now call boilies. Unfortunately, on the day that this issue was published Fred, who had been ill for a while, passed away. To say that that I was saddened to hear this news could not possibly convey the sense of loss that I feel over his departure.

During the early seventies I used to live close to Fred in SE2 and spent many a night round at his place discussing every topic under the sun from politics to space travel and from the environment to religion and ethics. He had an analytical mind, and I am not exaggerating when I say that our discussions had a profound effect on my whole way of thinking about the world and life in general. Even when Fred spoke about a subject that he knew little about, he always had the correct questions to ask. In my own thinking process I will always have a place on the board of directors for his opinions and views on, well, everything! When I was told of his passing; I suddenly had an urge to go and make bait. I did this and thought of

Fred while I was rolling out the balls. It seemed like a fitting gesture. We have surely lost one of the all-time great contributors to the Word of Angling.



I have still not gone to the river yet and have been continuing my tench fishing activities. I must admit that things have now slowed up a bit, but I am getting a few for my efforts along with the odd carp. I had my first attempt at piking last week as I felt that the baited feeder patch had gone a bit quiet and suspected an Esox was responsible.



I had brought a few sprats along for just this possibility. I stuck one out close by on one of my single hook hair rig arrangements, confident that something would happen. After about an hour something did. The small round pilot float bobbed under several times and then moved off. The problem was that I felt nothing when I tightened up. Bait was gone and I found this suspicious. I was right to be, as after leaving the next take a bit longer I found myself connected to a decent sized Eel. After a good old tug of war in and out of the weed I landed a good one of around 4 lb which was neatly hooked through the bottom lip on my barbless size 4 single. A good start I thought and no sooner had I put it back the feeder rod was away, and I landed the first tench of the afternoon. I ended with 4 good sized tench between 5 and 6 ½ lb – a fine afternoon's action. Just as I was packing up, the sprat rod went again, and I got my first snapper of the season at about 7lb.

This convinced me that It is time to enrol once again at the University of Esox for another term.



Drought v Floods

I am hoping that by the time that this issue of FI is published we have had some substantial rain to top up the drought affected areas including the southeast. What little we have had recently has done nothing more than turn the grass green and many reservoirs are still at critical level.

I have been following newsletters and recent info from SERT (Southeast Rivers Trust) and I'm certainly pleased to see their efforts at various locations around the county to increase the water retaining properties of boggy land, woodland ponds, and general flood plains. Basically, this work will hold water back for longer and prevent flooding while the retention of water will help during hot dry spells like we have experienced this season.

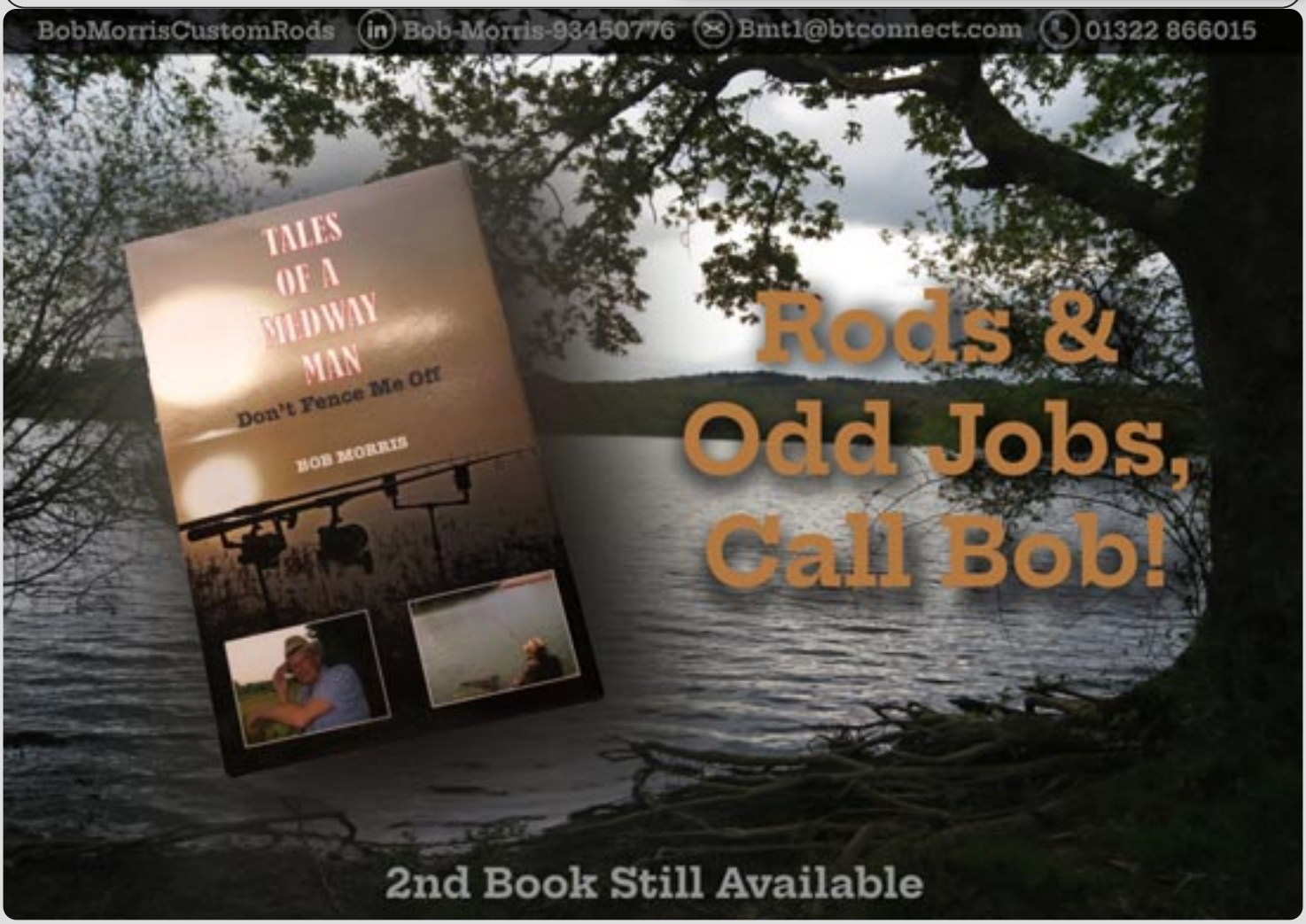
This is really rewilding of the environment and putting it back as nature intended. For far too long we have been obsessed with speedy drainage systems and shooting excess water straight out to sea as quickly as possible. I am convinced that this current approach is going to be a vast improvement for us all. The environment /diversity of wildlife will also benefit greatly.

I think we need a couple of Beavers to be elected to the board of the EA or whatever organisation we will now have in the future 😊

Best Fishes & Water Retention

Bob Morris





Coarse Fisheries

Beaver Farm Fishery Eastbourne Road
Newchapel, Lingfield RH7 6HL 01342 324006 / 07710 656041

Cackle Hill Lakes
Headcorn Rd, Biddenden, Ashford TN27 8JW 01580 292292

Chart Hill Lakes
Chart Hill Road, Chart Sutton ME17 3EZ 07398 571337

Chequertree Trout and Coarse Fishery
Bethersden, Near Ashford TN26 3JR 01233 820078

Coombewood Fishery
Redbrook Street, High Halden, Near Ashford TN26 3JH 07895 679569

Elphicks Fisheries
Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden TN12 8EL 01580 854702

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

Charlies Lakes
Steeds Lane, Kingsnorth, Ashford TN26 1NH 07857 539785

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

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Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP 07730 066088

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

Hawkhurst Fish Farm
Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT 01580 854702

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

Horsmonden Lakes
Grovehurst Road, Horsmonden TN12 8BQ 01892 838576

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

Knightingales Fishery
Stone–In–Oxney, Near Tenterden TN30 7HA 07941 176205

Mousehole Lakes, Maidstone Road
Nettlestead, Near Paddock Wood ME18 5HR 07725 783405

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

Pittlands Lakes
Churn Lane, Horsmonden, Paddock Wood TN12 8HL 07716 065900

Sandwich Lakes Coarse Fishery
Sandwich Ash Road (A257), Near Canterbury CT3 2DA 07936 409912

Shirkoak Fishery
Bethersden Road, Woodchurch, Ashford TN26 3PZ 07973 410973

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

Tricklebrook Fishery
Colts Hill, Five Oak Green TN12 6SH 07743 955812

Willows Angling Centre
Bax Farm, Lower Road, Teynham ME9 9BU 01795 520887

Wylands Farm
Wylands Farm, Powdermill Lane, Battle TN33 0SU 01424 893394

Trout Fisheries

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

Ouse Valley (Sussex) Flyfishers
Contact us via our web site **www.ovsf.co.uk**

Coltsford Mill Trout Fishery & Fly Tackle Shop
Mill Lane, Oxted, Surrey RH8 9DG 01883 715666 / 07798 605867

Spring Hill Trout Waters
Albans Farm, Romford Road, Pembury TN2 4BB 07951 304515

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

Lakedown Trout Fishery
email lakedowntroutfishery@gmail.com 01435 883449

Tackle & Bait Supplies

Absolute Tackle 12 Wealden Forest Park
Herne Common, Kent CT6 7LQ 01227 636724 / 07809 330854

Anglers Den
6 North Road, Pevensey Bay BN24 6AY 01323 460441

Angling Specialist (ASH)
29 Queen Street, Horsham RH13 5AA 01403 264644

A.R. Tackle
8 Castle Street, Hastings TN34 3DY 01424 422094

The Bait Bucket
Three Ponds Holiday Park, South Heighton, BN9 0TP 01273 933050

Best Buddies
248 Horn Street, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 4JR 01303 487144

Bodle Angling
Cuckfield Road, Burgess Hill RH15 8RE 01444 247757

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

Edenbridge Angling
132 High Street, Edenbridge, TN8 5AY 01732 247702

Eastbourne Aquarium & Reptile Centre
19-21 Seaside, Eastbourne BN21 3PP 01323 730635

Henfold Bait & Tackle Henfold Lakes
Henfold Lane, Newdigate, Dorking RH5 4RW 07956 043922

Angling Direct
Reynolds Place, West Green, Crawley RH11 7HB 01293 521186

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

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

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

Mud Pigs
Unit 1, Browns Lane, Uckfield, T22 1UN 07494 785273

Orchard Tackle
58 High Brooms Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9DB 07494 670328

Pinions Baits
431 London Road, Ditton, Aylesford ME20 6DB 01622 718580

Polegate Angling Centre
Unit 7, Birch Industrial Estate, Eastbourne BN23 6PH 01323 486379

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

Scotties Fishing Tackle
25 Southwick Square, Southwick, Brighton BN42 4FP 01273 592903

South London Angling Centre
286 Lee High Road, London SE13 5PJ 0208 852 4451

Sussex Bait Developments
Falkenvil Fishery, Saltmarsh Lane, Hailsham BN27 2RJ 07971 303949

The Tackle Box
251 Watling Street, Dartford DA2 6EG 01322 292400

Winchealsea Beech Angling
Unit 5 Sutton Industrial Park Winchelsea Beach TN36 4LZ 07738 261541

Angling Clubs & Societies

Hastings Bexhill & District
Ruth Anderson 07803 816668
info@hastingsandbexhillangling.co.uk

Tonbridge & District A & FPS
For all enquiries please email: info@tonbridge-angling.co.uk

Bromley (Kent) & District AS
PO Box 895, East Grinstead RH19 9ND
Email: bdas-kent-enquiry@bdaskent.co.uk

Linton Angling Society Jason Tuckey on 07983 56922 or
email lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk

Wantsum Angling Association 07570 505934
or contact via website www.wantsumaa.co.uk

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