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**Jason Craven** 20lb 5oz River Medway Pike

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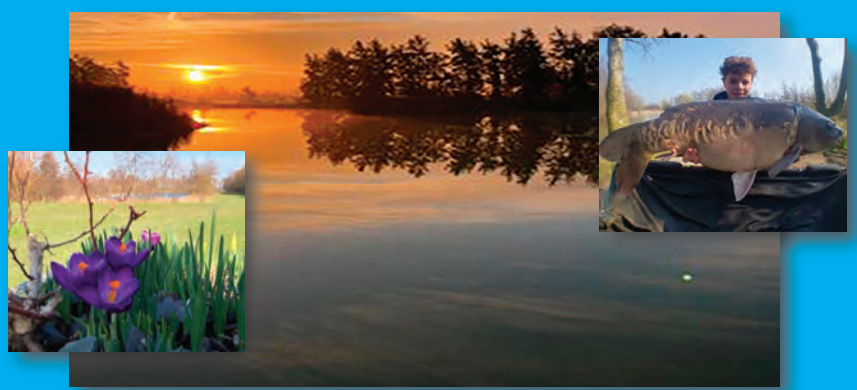
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Welcome to the January 2020 issue of the Freshwater Informer and a very Happy New Year to you all!

Here we are at the start of another year! Although many people regard this as a drab, cold, miserable time in the calendar, I always find it an exciting period. The prospect of a new year and all the opportunities that are about to unfold brings an air of expectation. We often look back at the previous year and mutter 'good riddance to that one', and often the twelve months preceding the new year may have brought sadness and strife, so I always believe it is a good thing to start on a positive note! A case of 'glass half full' not 'half empty'!

The magazine had a great 2019 and exceeded all my expectations. Although it has certainly been a case of hard work and lots of hours hammering away at a battered keyboard, the results have been worth it. Readers' feedback has been fantastic and many often ask me in amazement 'why is it still free'? In this modern world, very few things, if any, are free and if they are, one automatically asks why? The Freshwater Informer, since its conception by Roger Standen in the '90s, has been funded by the advertising revenue and not by a cover charge. This has enabled all anglers to have access to the region's fishing community and does not exclude any groups of people. I will endeavour to maintain this stance with the support of businesses within our region. The magazine's Facebook page has been a terrific platform to promote the publication and enables me to 'chat' on a daily basis with anglers not just from our region, but, nationwide. Anglers can almost have a 'Daily Freshwater Informer'!

What are your angling plans for this coming year? I certainly hope to do some more fishing myself and despite having three club memberships, my patronage to their waters has been limited. I was really hoping to get out on the Rother last year as it holds a dear place in my (angling) heart, but, work meant that my trips did not materialise. I hope to amend that this year. Club memberships are a fantastic way of having access to a variety of waters at a cost which is extremely budget friendly. Do you belong to a club? If not, take a look at those who advertise in the magazine and visit their websites to see what they can offer you.

The new Freshwater Informer website has been extremely popular and is attracting 1,000s of visits each month. Businesses can now advertise in the relative listings on the page for just £5 per month! I would like to thank all the businesses that have supported the magazine throughout last year and look forward to working with you again in 2020. I am always happy to chat with prospective advertisers about the positive benefits that appearing in the Informer can provide for them and it doesn't cost a fortune! All the contact details are below. Many thanks also to the small army of contributors who, every month, provide us with such great reports and articles and help make the Informer what it is. I look forward to their offerings throughout the year!

Enjoy your fishing, Barry Reed

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Stoney & Friends is an official Macmillan Cancer Support Committee and Established in 1996

Organised in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017),

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### The Freshwater Informer

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COPY DEADLINE for FEBRUARY 2020 - MONDAY 13th JANUARY 2020

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# Fishery Reports

## Elphicks Fisheries Horsmonden, Kent

**NORTH LAKE** is still producing. **Matthew Teale** had mirrors of 22lb, 29lb, 35lb and a common of 27lb. **Steve Smith** had mirrors of 33lb 34lb 6oz and 40lb 11oz. **Luke Steel** had commons of 27lb, 34lb and a mirror of 39lb 7oz.

**PLANTATION LAKE** is fishing well. **Des Valentine** had 3 mirrors to 27lb and a 34lb mirror, **John Briggs** had 6 mirrors to 27lb, **Will Timson** had a 32lb mirror, **Chris Timson** had a 31lb mirror.

**PRAIRIE LAKE** is producing. **Dave Lee** had a 25lb mirror and two commons at 24lb, 26lb, **Jay Edwards** had a 25lb mirror, **Alec Farmer** had two mirrors at 18lb and 25lb. **Mike Harrington** had a 20lb 8oz mirror. **Stewart Green** had a common of 23lb and a mirror at 31lb 7oz. **Joe Pilbeam** had a 27lb mirror and **Luke Pilbeam** had a 30lb common. **Teddy Tahir** had a 31lb 4oz common.

**SANDWICH LAKE** is producing carp to pva bags and a small method feeder. Silvers are coming out on maggots and corn. Carp still coming off the top to bread and floaters. **Craig Swindell** had eight carp to 9lb.



Teddy Tahir



Lloyd Anderson - 14lbs Kettles

**KETTLES LAKE** is fishing well. **Scott Nolan** had a 32lb 12 oz common and a 26lb mirror. **Jake Boyd** had a 16lb mirror. **Simon Roberts** using bread and boilies had mirrors of 19lb, 11lb, 8lb, 17lb and 22lb. He also had commons of 9lb, 14lb, 24lb and 11lb. **Tom Littlewood** had an 18lb mirror and four others from 10lb to 13lb. Carp still loving the bread and floaters. **Richard Cutts** and **Neil Edwards** had 32 carp between 12lb and 25lb, **Richard Cutts** had 6 carp to 19lb, **Lloyd Anderson** had five mirrors to 15lb and four commons to 14lb. **Chris Reed** had eleven carp from 6lb to 21lb 3oz.



Lawrence Harris - 33lbs



George Martin - 47lbs West End

**WEST END LAKE** has picked up a bit now. **Liam Coles** had two mirrors at 46lb and 49lb, **Mark Sheward** had two mirrors at 34lb, 35lb, **Paul Moore** had three mirrors at 40lb, 40lb, 32lb.

## Tricklebrook Fishery Five Oak Green, Kent



## Wylands International AC Battle, East Sussex

A huge thanks to all those who took part in the first round of the carp league and well done to Ken Davis who is currently leading in the points. There is still plenty of time to get involved and lots of prizes up for grabs. Have a look at our Facebook page for more information!

Although Christmas has passed, you can still purchase Wylands Gift Vouchers which make a great gift for any angler whatever the time of year! Don't forget to check out our Facebook page (Wylands International Angling Centre) for up to the minute information on the fishery and photographs, I hope to see you all on the bank in the not too distant future!

**HOUSE** and **MIDDLE LAKES** have been fishing well considering the water temperatures. The anglers that have braved the weather have had multiple catches on short sessions.



House Lake - silvers match



House Lake - common

**FIELD LAKE** is still fishing well. There are still plenty of bites to be had. This lake is closed on Fridays through the winter for club matches.

**KELL** picked up towards the end of November. The beginning was very hard with a few blanks, but the fish started feeding again and a couple of people have caught carp to 35lb.

**OLD SPECI** has been fishing steady over the last month. Maggots seem to be working well, along with sweetcorn.

**MAISIES** is a very much overlooked Winter carp water and contains some stunning looking carp and several carp have been landed.

**ROSIES LAKE** has been under fished, although those that have fished it have been rewarded with some stunning carp and roach falling to maggots. Please note that the car park may be closed due to wet ground.



Jez - 35lbs



The **SNAKE MATCH LAKE** is fishing well. The weights have dropped off slightly but most of the winning weights are coming in at around the 50-70lb mark. Paste, meat, corn, worms and maggots are the winning baits, fished over ground bait to get the carp in a feeding frenzy.

**Accommodation packages** We have a selection of 6 berth caravans and 2 berth chalets and our great value packages all inclusive of fishing! For more information or to book call 01424 893394.

**Snack bar** is currently only closed on Monday through the Winter months. Why not pop in for a hot drink if you are passing? Coffee and tea are only 50p a cup! The on site tackle shop, **Bank Side Tackle** is closed Mondays and Tuesdays throughout the Winter.



Scott Wright - 30lbs



New Spec - 19lb 12oz



19lb - New Spec



New Spec



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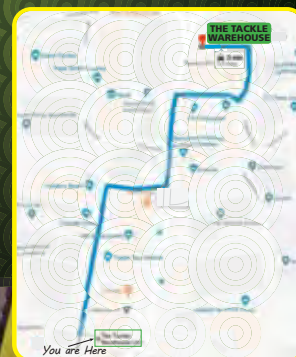
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**MAIN LAKE, DOVE LAKE AND ALL PLEASURE LAKES**  
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**SPECIMEN LAKE** Remains open to Members only

**MATCH LAKE** Open for matches booked only

**JUNIOR LAKES** are closed until 14<sup>th</sup> February

**WATERSIDE CAFÉ** will reopen at 9am on 3<sup>rd</sup> January

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

## Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hawkhurst, Kent

At the time of writing the report, we have not long been closed for the winter, and are planning out works to the fishery. We reopen on 31st January and there is lots of work we want to complete before then! This includes netting of some lakes, regular maintenance such as tree cutting and works to paths, as well as work on the jetty's etc.

**MAIN LAKE, DOVE LAKE, QUARRY LAKE AND FOUR TREES LAKE:** These are all currently closed for grounds maintenance. They will reopen on Friday 31st January.

**MATCH LAKE:** Open for Matches booked only. **Please contact us on 01580 753813 to book your matches.** Dates for this year are filling in fast so be sure to call now to avoid disappointment.

**SPECIMEN LAKE:** Remains open (for members only!). If you are interested in becoming a member you can download an application form via our website - please be aware that there is a waiting list.

**JUNIOR LAKES:** Our 3 Junior Lakes are now closed until 14th February- just in time for the school's half term.

**Waterside café:** Our on-site café is now open (from 3rd January) for both breakfast and lunch service, 9am -4pm, Wednesdays to Sundays.

Although our Fish of the Month Competition hasn't yet started this year, please do not forget to send us your catch reports as we love hearing what's been caught and it helps other anglers who come to fish our banks when they know what's coming out.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/hawkhurstfishfarm](https://www.facebook.com/hawkhurstfishfarm) and website [www.hawkhurstfishfarm.co.uk](http://www.hawkhurstfishfarm.co.uk) for updates.

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# Fishery Reports

## Hartley Lands Fishery Cranbrook, Kent

Winter is definitely here with less anglers on the bank, but the lakes are still throwing out a few nice surprises, with fish coming from all over including a couple of the newly stocked fish being caught.

The books for 2020 are open for all types of bookings from 24hr to matches and lake exclusives. Please give the bailiff a call on 07703 825064 for further information or to get booked in!



Jacob - Reservoir Lake



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Competition



# Fishery Reports

## Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society

**BARDEN LAKE** has slowed up significantly for the carp fishing, although there have been a few fish to 30lb+ caught. The pike fishing has improved a lot, especially now the water temperature has dropped and the dead weed has drifted out of a lot of the popular fishing areas. Reports of several double figure fish have come in.

**THE OLD BALLAST PIT** is fishing well for pike as **Razvan Velea** found out recently, fishing with lures, he managed several nice fish to double figures.

**THE NEW LAGOON** has not been fished as much lately due to the weather conditions, but a few regulars are still catching tench to 6lb and plenty of silvers.

**LONGFIELD LAKE** is in the process of having some swim clearing and tree cutting being done which will make the lake look a lot nicer and allow more light through.



Razvan Velea



Jason Craven - 20lb 5oz River Medway pike



Neal Rogers - 14lb 8oz River Medway pike

The **RIVER MEDWAY** has been up and down, coloured and pushing through at times but now it has fined down, the predators have become more active. Society Members **Jason Craven** and **Neal Rogers** found this out on a recent trip piking, Neal getting a good take very early in the session, only for the fish to drop the bait close in, but within seconds Jason was into what felt like a decent fish which gave a very good account of itself. After a good powerful run, Jason netted a stunning 20lb 5oz fish in immaculate condition. Later in the day, Neal also had a good take which resulted in a cracking plump 14lb 8oz pike.

### WINTER ROVER Vexor – 24/11/19

1st	Steve Parker	13lb 12oz
2nd	Mick Smith	7lb 0oz
3rd	Colin Fowler	5lb 14oz

### CHRISTMAS MATCH Barden Park – 8/12/19

1st	John Cooper	7lb 10oz
2nd	Ditch Howard	5lb 3oz
3rd	Bob Doyle	3lb 15oz



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# POM'S PEG



## TO BOOST OR NOT TO BOOST? THAT IS THE QUESTION!

*Every two weeks, I do a live feed chat on the Team Pallatrax FaceBook page and the latest topic that we discussed in detail was all about boosted hook baits, especially during winter/cold water fishing, so I thought it would also be a great topic to cover here.*

So, for those who don't know what a boosted hook bait is, it's one that you have, in some way, manipulated to 'stand out from the crowd' as either a single hook bait or within your free offerings. It is something that is especially focused on within winter tactics, but for me, I will tend to use as something within my year-round angling approach.



*Fluoro pop up  
- colour has its place,  
especially in clear water  
conditions during daylight*

In essence, I want a hook bait that attracts and allows a fish to locate it quickly and instigate a bite and in the main it makes sense to boost your hook bait, so it is the first bait the fish locates. I think that we can forget how a fish locates your hook bait, as we can sometimes humanise fish and believe they see as clearly as we can see when in fact within their environment, it is far more about what they sense. If you look at a carp, for example, you will find they can sense through a series of receptors which allow them to 'taste' the water in the same way that we would smell on the air. These receptors are highly sensitive, so if you have an over-flavoured bait it makes common sense that this would be the first bait they locate – if all goes to plan!

Another aspect is that, like anything in nature, it can 'fill up' with food so do we want to fish over a baited area where the fish has eaten its fill before it finds your hook bait?



*Glugged baits that have  
been soaking over time*

If you fish a like hook bait over a bed of freebies, it is mathematically against you that the fish finds your hook bait first, unless you have made it stand out.

Last, but not least, is the fact that in water temperatures below 39 degrees, coarse fish eat very infrequently as they enter a state of semi hibernation. This is a time that a boosted hook bait fished amongst a shoal really comes into its own by taking a fish from this sleepy mode to one that reacts to your hook bait through the fact it is boosted. One of the many times I have seen this was in my early days of carp fishing when I knew I was fishing in the right spot but I could not buy a bite, so I then changed my hook baits for ones that had been soaking in a newly developed Glug. Same bait, same flavour, but now seriously over boosted, and during the next two hours saw me land thirteen carp in Baltic conditions at the end of December. Coincidence? I think not, as this was the first of many times that fish have reacted like this and this was definitely one of those 'school days' where I learnt that just by making such a small tweak, I could cause an instant reaction.

There is a huge array of products out there for you to buy into because the majority of companies now sell products that allow you to create these bespoke hook baits, so it really is a case of trial and error to get the right one that works on the day with all the variables that come into play within fishing. I've been fortunate enough to be in a position to develop my own products to combat my required needs and I now tend to steer towards a couple of approaches.

As mentioned, the Glugged hook bait is one of my two 'go to' tactics. These are pre-drilled Squabs which I just leave in my flavoured Glug and take them out as and when needed. By leaving them in the Glug, the flavours simply ingress into the bait and really do heighten their flavour as a single hook bait. Simple, easy to do, but a tad messy as my Glugs are super thick and sticky!



*Wrapping paste around the hookbait  
- a distinct edge*

My next approach is a little more time consuming to prepare, but definitely worth the extra effort. I will take my hook bait and mount onto a hair. Next stage is to take a piece of paste and wrap that around the hook bait. I then put the wrapped bait into my Glug and from there pop it into a pot of attractant powders to finish off with. This then results with a series of separate attractants coating my hook bait and all breaking down at different stages. Another edge this also gives is that the Paste traps the hair and the extra weight pushes the bait forward on the cast, thus reducing tangles.



*Fully loaded,  
wrapped in paste,  
glugged and coated  
in attractant Powderz*

In summary, I would always advise to think about boosting your hook baits whatever the venue, species sought, or conditions fished within. Not only does it make obvious common sense, but is a proven edge which can take you from blanking to catching in an instant. It really is worth that extra bit of effort, be warned and ignore at your own peril.

Hopefully you will find this of use, and it will add another successful dimension to those anglers who don't already go down this route. As always, if you have any questions please feel free to e-mail me at [simon@pallatrax.co.uk](mailto:simon@pallatrax.co.uk).

*Until next time, stay safe and catch more!*

*Simon 'Pom' Pomeroy*

**E-mail: [simon@pallatrax.co.uk](mailto:simon@pallatrax.co.uk)**



# Fishery Reports

## Framfield Park Fishery Uckfield, East Sussex

### SPRING LAKE

Despite much colder weather, the lake is fishing extremely well with match weights in excess of 100 lbs. Best baits are corn, maggot and worm with bread accounting for good quality carp up to 10 lbs. Some good quality perch are showing on pegs in the 60's, especially when fishing worm. Most pegs producing either at 10 metres or on the far bank.



### BROOKHOUSE LAKE

Pegs close to the gap in the islands are fishing best with carp to low doubles showing. Best baits are corn, maggot and bread with a little groundbait pulling in mirrors and commons to 10 lbs. Fishing at 10 metres seems to be the best method with some good quality carp showing at the near bank later in sessions.

### BURYWOOD LAKE

Pegs on the far bank producing well with carp up to low 20's showing especially when fished to features. Some nice grass carp falling to pop ups with some smaller catfish to 30 lbs falling to lobworm.

### MATCH REPORTS

#### Brookhouse Lake

1 Nobby Whiteing (Hawthorn)	89-1-0
2 Keith Harper (Warlingham)	45-1-0
3 Alan Stewart (Framfield GB )	41-2-0
4 Dennis Cooper (Framfield)	40-8-0
5 Bob Bradford (Dench MG)	38-0-0

#### Spring Lake

1 Mark Parrett (Faulkners)	84-3-0
2 Keith Harper (Warlingham)	50-4-0
3 Nigel Greenwood (Isfield AS)	46-14
4 Dennis Cooper (Framfield)	20-15-0
5 Alan Stewart (Framfield GB )	20-1-0

# Tanyard Fisheries

Tanyard Lane | Furners Green | Uckfield | East Sussex | TN22 3RL

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

For information and sending us your catch reports to  
Whats App via tel: 07833 532842

*The Coarse Lakes are still owned and run by Bernard and Sharon*

Tanyard Fisheries is made up of 3 general lakes and  
1 carp-free lake on a well looked after fishery

**Fishery will close on 2nd Dec and re-open on 1st Feb**



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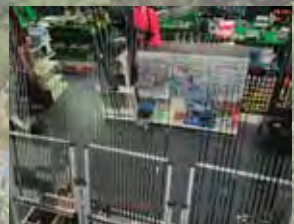
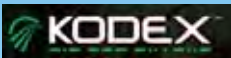
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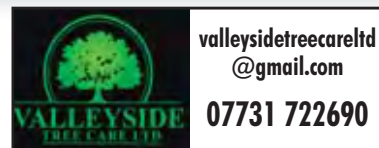
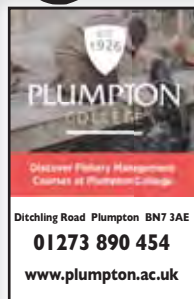
**IF BY ANY CHANCE WE DON'T HAVE WHAT YOU WANT IN STOCK...  
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Dedicated bait room • COMING SOON...indoor bivvy display area





# Junior Informer



Thank you to our Junior Informer Sponsors

## Hello and welcome to the January edition of the Junior Informer!

A very Happy New Year to you all! Well here we are at the start of another year. The weather at this time of year plays a big part in whether we go fishing. It can be cold and wet and often icy with snow! Not the best of weather to sit on the bank or beach. However, there can often be some good fishing to be had. The fish, as you know, respond to the changing weather conditions so what you need to look for are 'settled periods' rather than the weather changing on a daily basis. If there has been a number of days where there has been high pressure or low pressure, then the fish will have adjusted to that and will be looking for small amounts of feed. You will very often find that the last couple of hours before dusk are the most productive so a short afternoon session may be better than a whole day. Best baits at this time of year are generally maggots, worms and casters. Bread can be good but be careful not to overfeed as it can quickly fill the fish. If you liquidise some white bread, ask your parents for some help to do this, and feed small amounts. You can use this with a variety of hookbaits as mentioned.

**Don't forget to send in your catch photos to us for the magazine!**

Business owners – I am always looking for sponsors for the Junior pages as it is the sponsorship that helps us provide these pages dedicated to young anglers. If you would like to get involved and show the angling community that you care about getting young people fishing, please get in touch with us by phone, email or Facebook message. All our contact details are at the front of the magazine.

## FISHING FOR SCHOOLS

### January Update

### Countryside Alliance to launch exclusive Rod Raffle on Thursday 30 January 2020

The Countryside Alliance Foundation is offering you a unique opportunity to help a future generation of anglers and own the ultimate game-fisher's collection of fly rods, reels, lines and accessories.

This bespoke prize has been lovingly crafted specifically for British rivers, lakes and streams.

Every ticket sold in our Rod Raffle will support Fishing for Schools, which introduces fishing and extraordinary countryside experiences to disadvantaged children and young people.

The prize in our rod raffle is 4 Sage X fly-fishing rods, complemented with appropriate Hardy fly reels and matching Airflo fly lines.

This fantastic prize comprises:

- A 15ft Sage X #10/11 – purpose-crafted for big river salmon fishing and spey casting.
- A 10ft Sage X #7 - designed for either single-handed salmon or grilse but excellent for both sea trout and lake fishing.
- A 9ft Sage X #5 - the world's favourite length and weight of trout rod. This is a fly rod that will go anywhere, from big rivers to little lakes... just take it with you and fish.
- A 7ft 6in Sage X #3 - for those secret little streams inhabited by bright-eyed trout and grayling.

All four rods are handmade by Ian Tucker, one of the UK's finest rod builders, and the set will be supplied with a cloth bag and protective tube.

The raffle will be launched on Thursday 30 January at Farlows in Pall Mall, London. Tickets cost £25 and will be available from that date on our website - <https://www.countryside-alliance.org/charity/fishing-for-schools>



Fishing for Schools director and founder Charles Jardine said: "Taking part in our Rod Raffle is a wonderful opportunity that will give you the finest selections of fly rods available and purpose-matched reels and lines and will help us make a difference to the anglers of the future. Please support angling's future by purchasing your ticket."



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# Fishing 4 Schools – December Tip of the Month

## from instructor Rob Goble

### A Happy New Year to you all!

So much rain has fallen and my goodness it has certainly made up for the summer past. What will the New Year bring? Let's hope for more time fishing. This could be your New Year's resolution!

I hope to see more people, young and old, taking up the pastime in 2020. As a fly fishing and casting instructor, I noticed last year that many more ladies wanted to have a go and they enjoyed every minute. What could be healthier than being out in the fresh air and enjoying the countryside and environment, if not fishing then enjoying a walk?

Again, I can recommend Bewl Water, Lamberhurst, Kent for both activities. There are so many places to walk, enjoying the Winter's sun and all wrapped up warm with a good pair of boots.

If you walk the main dam area, look out across and down to Hook Strait and the nature reserve and across to ferry point and Bewl Strait. It is a vista you would think has always been there, but, was built in the seventies.



If you are into bird life there cannot be a finer place to spot them, with all manner of Winter birds around, especially the great flocks of geese – greylags, Canada and Brent – and a mixture of all sorts of other waterfowl.

During the Summer, the water level was quite a way down and it was interesting to see the lay of the land, the hollows and dips and depressions. As a fisherman, this was good homework and now that the level is back to 100%, if you can remember where those topographical areas are, you will understand where trout can be. The fishing can be surprisingly

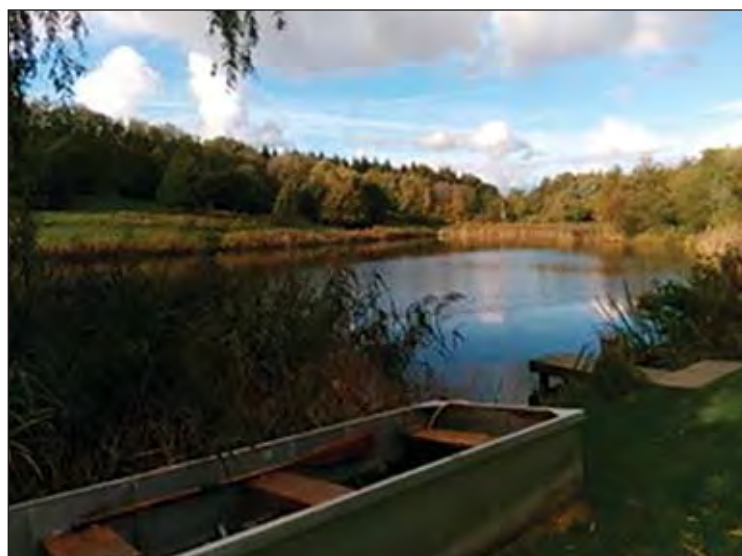


good at this time. Trout will be close into the banks, so up your leader or tippet strength. You have been warned!

Another trout water to try, if you are in Kent like me, is Tenterden Trout Waters. It is not far from the town with its historic steam railway, with billowing smoke and hissing steam in the distance. The fishing isn't bad either! A warm welcome awaits from Gaynor and Richard, not forgetting mum, Audrey. There is a warm and cosy newly built lodge with hot drinks at your disposal for when the weather turns a little too cold.

One thing I like is how you can retain your catch with their unique basket system and at the end of the day select the fish you would like to take and return the others. Of course, you can also catch and release as you go along.

Springhill Trout Waters is a favourite of mine as well, with its rolling wooded hills above the lakes. It too has a warm lodge to escape any harsh weather, with hot and cold drinks and Lee and Jane will welcome you warmly.



The main lake has wooden platforms around it to fish from for your comfort. Lee is very much into encouraging nature and flora and fauna abounds. There are also three smaller lakes that are purely brown trout. The main lake holds rainbows as well.

Lee runs a tagged fish system, there are usually several swimming around. Catch one of these and you could be £100 better off and they do come out regularly. To have a try for the tagged fish will cost you just £2, so it's worth the crack.

These are just three fisheries to try in 2020. They could be on your bucket list, so go on, give them a try!

At this time of the year, trout can be down in the depths, so use intermediate fly lines as well as full sinking lines. Leader length does not have to be long - about the length of your rod will suffice, 7-8 lbs breaking strength and line tapered. This will help with turnover of your fly. It's best not to go lighter as you could be broken off.

When casting, try short casting into the immediate area in front of you as the trout can be under your feet. Don't forget to be stealthy, so no stomping around otherwise the fish will pick up your vibrations and disappear away from the noise.

Try casting fan style (if you have the room), from left to right and at differing depths. You may have to wait a short while for your fly to get deep but be patient, then retrieve your fly back.

Retrieve can be slow, quick, quick, slow, stop (it sounds like a dance!) but best of all mix it up. If no pulls after half an hour move and try again. There is no point in being lead-booted. You need to find the fish. The fish won't find you!



If the weather looks promising, by all means try a floating line with your chosen offering on the end. It could do the business. That's the beauty of this sport, it means you are always thinking ahead. What depth? How fast the retrieve? And so on. Be open minded.

Flies to try, include all the usual suspects – cat's whiskers, vivas, Montanas, minkies, humungouses, boobys and blobs, not forgetting the buzzers - yes it can happen, even in the coldest of days.

That's all for now.

*Be safe, keep warm and most of all have fun, Bob G.*



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I am absolutely delighted to welcome Pallatrax as the new sponsors of our Catch Reports Section. This section is where you display your catch to other Freshwater Informer readers.

Each month, Pallatrax will choose from the published photos and pick their winner.

The winner will receive EIGHT packs from the innovative new GRIPZ hook range.

The lucky angler will have a packet of sizes 2,4,6,8,10, 12,14 and 16, so will be equipped for all eventualities. This fantastic prize is worth over £40 RRP!

To be in with a chance to win this fantastic set of GRIPZ hooks, all you have to do is send us your catch photo via our Facebook message page or email [barnic@btinternet.com](mailto:barnic@btinternet.com) Entry is FREE and all coarse fish photos are welcome! From a carp to a roach, send us your pictures! Please make sure you tell us where it was caught and it's weight.



## Gripz Fishing Hooks

After extensive research, where the limitations of both barbed and barbless were scrutinised, there has been an obvious need for improvement thus resulting in this radical design that crosses the boundaries between what we have had and what we now have.

Made from high grade Japanese wire, the key improvement has been the introduction of a series of minute horizontal grooves on the inside of the specially designed arrow shaped hook point, where historically the barb would have been. These grooves allow the hook to hold securely in the fish's mouth when pressure is applied, as the flesh presses into the grooves resulting in a firm hook hold with no slippage.

What are you waiting for? Grab your rods and head down to your favourite water and remember to take your phone or camera!



The winner of the  
**PALLATRAX GRIPZ Hooks**

Set for **DECEMBER** is...

**WINNER** **Dave Wayman**  
well done!



ANDY HUMPHREYS - 18LBS GREENACRES



PHIL JUDD - 2LBS 60ZS COTTINGTON



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MONTH'S

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well  
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Calum Morris - 8lbs 4ozs  
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# THE GOLDEN YEARS OF COARSE FISHING by Bob Rolph

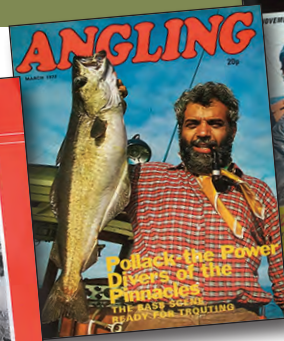
## The monthly magazines of the Golden Era!

There was an era, 55 years ago, when the fishing world here in England had four monthly coarse fishing magazines, three Trout fishing magazines, two Sea Angling magazines and two 'proper' fishing newspapers, not comics like we have today, promoting the latest celebrity football star to catch a 40 lb carp! There were no specialist carp fishing magazines and sadly no Freshwater Informer, not until Roger Standen saw the light 23 years ago! 278 editions later, going right back to November 1996, and we have a magazine to be proud of. Somebody's doing something right, no other monthly, largely coarse fishing magazine has lasted this long for some time. Well done Barry!

I've been corresponding a lot recently with Ian Howcroft, that great former barbel, tench, chub and bream angler who now lives in Perth, W. Australia. He married Fred J. Taylor's daughter, Valerie, and was instrumental in the building of Dick Walker's hut on the Great Ouse at Beechampton in the early 60s. His writings in "Fishing" magazine on aspects of chub, barbel and tench fishing were inspirational to me during my youth, and I finally met up with him again last February on my Australian trip after a gap of nearly 55 years. He was the first person to tackle the barbel of the Great Ouse in 1963, and his huge bream catches from Tring Reservoir were legendary. He also ran the Tench syndicate at Sawmills lake, Wotton Underwood, where the Taylor brothers had huge catches of quality tench from the anchored punt in the 50s and 60s. Ian wrote regularly about all this in "Fishing" magazine, which attained cult status among big fish anglers in the 1960s, with its revolutionary approach to this new and increasingly popular branch of our sport.

The red covered "Fishing" magazine took the stands from 1963 until 1969 with just 194 issues, and for the princely sum of one shilling (5p) was the best weekly read since the Fishing Gazette and Anglers News, many years earlier, even earlier than I can remember! These two old magazines were a prelude to the Angling Times, and ceased publication just as I was talking up the sport as a 10 year old boy in 1956, the Times and the Mail took over the helm just before the four monthly magazines came on the market.

New young writers, some fresh from university with ideas on big fish angling, began to emerge in the hallowed pages of Fishing magazine in 1963. People like Frank Gutfeld, Mike Winter, Jim Gibbinson, Bob Church, Peter Mead, Dave Steuart, Dr Terence Coulson, Ewan Clarkson, and of course Dick Walker, Peter Stone and Fred J. Taylor, all wrote articles regularly on all aspects of coarse fishing, and not just carp! That



species was covered by Archie Braddock from Nottingham, and an up and coming junior news reporter from ATV Birmingham called Chris Tarrant!

I used to pick up my copy each Tuesday from Hayes railway station on my way to work in central London, and devour its pages, wishing I was travelling to the countryside and not the grime! We passed a lake each day, and I always wished I was down there with the pensioners who did not have to go to work, fishing for the crucian carp and tench that I knew inhabited that lake! I soon put paid to that lark, when I got a good job in the labs at Tate and Lyle research, in an old estate house right next to Keston Ponds no less! We had our own lake in the grounds, full of lovely little 'wildies' up to about 6 lbs, I was in heaven! I could now walk around Keston Ponds each lunchtime talking to the anglers!

Fishing magazine only had a short life, I don't know why, because it was a great magazine. When it changed format and increased its price to 1/6d (7.5p), and then went monthly the writing was on the wall. The black covered magazine disappeared off the shelves in 1969 after only 6 years. Collectors items they all are now, I have most of them, and often flick through the pages, remembering the great writers most of whom are sadly no longer with us. Ian Howcroft is still writing, not about bream and tench, but about his exploits off Exmouth, W. Australia where he once caught a 1200 lb tiger shark, bet that fought a bit harder than his many 9 lb bream from Tring! I must try and get him to do a piece for the Informer, I'm sure Barry would be pleased to expand the magazine into Western Australia!

Other great monthly Angling magazines were about at this time, but sadly none lasted very long. "Angling", edited by Brian Harris, was the longest lived, up to May 1981, where great writers like John Darling, Dennis Darkin, Ian Gillespie, Clive Gammon, and Arthur Cove, wrote on sea fishing and trout. The great six part TV show, "The Fishing Race" from 1975 was teamed by writers from this magazine, and I still see Dennis regularly today. I had a column in Angling around 1981, shortly before its demise, no wonder it went under!

Anglers World was about at this time too. Edited by that master Avon Barbel angler Peter Wheat, this too only lasted 6 years, between '62 and '68. It was a very expensive time buying up all those magazines each month for a junior lab technician, most were about 2 shillings (10p), but when Creel came on the scene, well that was another matter! The high quality glossy colour magazine Creel first appeared in July 1963, and was first edited by the very famous angler Bernard Venables, who had worked at the Mirror, and published the classic fishing book "Mr Crabtree goes Fishing" in 1949. This sold over 2 million copies in dozens of reprinted editions. A mint first edition is now worth hundreds of pounds, I have a very poor 1st, a good 3rd and a pristine 5th edition, which I refer to every June 16th, when I look to see if Peter has landed that tench yet! Only 47 issues later, and with spiralling costs, the magazine ceased publication in May 1967, under the helm of John Nixon, who took over to try and save it in Feb '65. The colour photographs and articles were top notch, and reprints of Bernard's paintings often featured in the pages, but it could not survive, despite



An early Freshwater Informer





Book signing at the Sandown Show November 2019

attracting some of the best writers of the time. John Nixon started a feature in its last year called "With the specimen hunters", about what the groups had been catching the previous month. I wrote each month about the Kent group's exploits, needless to say the magazine folded after six of my articles appeared! Sorry Barry!!

Several other coarse and trout fishing magazines came and went during the past 30 years or so, some only lasting a few issues. I feel that it's a shame that both the Angling Times and Anglers Mail have both gone into tabloid form, but I feel that the Freshwater Informer under its 'newish' editor and owner Barry Reed will continue to go from strength to strength with its modern quality digital pictures and features. I'm just sorry that my input is just poor quality colour and black and white photos, from a bygone age, but an age when young anglers learnt their fishing on the river bank, and from the writings of their "hero's" in the Angling magazines of the day, and not off the TV and Internet!

Mentioning TV, of course there were some great fishing programmes on terrestrial TV in the old days. I don't have Sky, so I miss much of what is on these days. Who is going to take over the helm from the late, great John Wilson, his nephew, Martin Bowler perhaps? He has made some of the best fishing series recently with "Catching the Impossible", and the previous series "Passion for Angling" with Chris Yates and Bob James, were outstanding. Bernard Venables made a great series of films on all the species years ago, which are available on YouTube, and Robson Green and Jeremy Wade make quite watchable adventure fishing programmes. But why do the mainstream channels always have to have a celebrity actor, comedian or footballer to do the fishing? I suppose it's all down to viewing figures and money!

The two greatest fishing series, which I mentioned before, both had Bernard Cribbins narrating them, which was great! He knows his stuff and is a great angler. Whitehouse and Mortimer are quite amusing, but it didn't really show serious fishing in a very good light. Paul Whitehouse is a very accomplished angler, but it did, I feel a bit like a worm on one end and a fool on the other. That's what it was supposed to portray, but no wonder the general public think we are all mad!

One little series that did feature an angling actor was about Izzac Walton on the river Lea with Geoffrey Palmer a few years ago, that had real atmosphere and captured the era perfectly. John Bailey from Norfolk did a series on Mr Crabtree, but it was very disappointing, I thought, and the big carp programmes on Channels 4 and 5 just leave me cold, with their bait boats, spod rods, echo sounders, drones, underwater cameras and mountains of gear all dragged over to Poland, Romania, France, Spain and the like. Dick Walker would turn in his grave if he knew what carp fishing had become these days. But that is progress I suppose, 'Globalisation of Fishing', not for me, I'm too old now! I'm in Spain now, but nowhere near the Ebro! I don't need a 200 lb catfish that much these days, I couldn't handle it now! More to the point, give me Mr Crabtree any day!" **Bob Rolph**

Next month, Bob takes a look at *The Books of the Golden Era!*



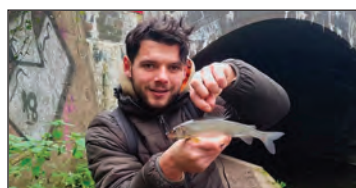
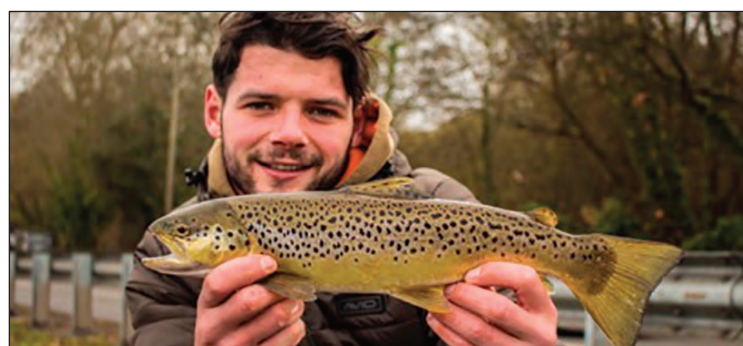
## Welcome to January's River Informer!

A very Happy New year to all you running water enthusiasts. Thankfully, we have not experienced any snow and ice as yet, however, last Autumn was one of the wettest on record but you didn't need me to tell you that! Many of our region's rivers have been virtually unfishable due to the volume of water running through. We can but hope that the weather dries a little enabling the rivers to ease and resemble something a little better than a muddy torrent. Please don't be shy and send me your river catch reports. We don't necessarily need to identify your swim's exact location, but just to mention the river that you fished.

## YOUR CATCH REPORTS

### Traditional fishing with great results!

Harry Sandercock from Bodle Angling sent in these catch photos after a day trotting a stick float in a local river.



### Short session, big result

Ricky Deerans found himself with just a couple of hours to wet a line and put the time to good use with this fine net of roach from his local river.





# Medway Man

**Bob Morris**

*It takes a pretty severe old bug to put me off my fishing, but that is exactly what has occurred during late November and the run up to the Christmas period. Flu type symptoms and an attack from a nasty' Noro' gastric virus have laid me low and rather curtailed my normal angling activities. I am pleased to say however, that I am now fully recovered and feeling enthusiastic about the New Year's piscatorial possibilities.*



*A decent roach on a cold morning*

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*The first weeks of a New Year can be a challenge, particularly if the weather turns all traditional and a freeze sets in. I have found that the pike are often happy to oblige during extreme conditions, so as long as the water has not gone totally solid, I always feel like I am in with a chance. If ice does stop play however and I am still feeling like a few hours fishing, then a trip to the upper stretches of the Medway*



*Are we in for a freeze up*



*A nice catch of Grayling*

*or other local river with trotting rod and pin is still a good bet, as grayling are seemingly impervious to the cold water and will feed regardless.*

*When fishing in these tough conditions, usually with maggots, I have also found that I get a chance of a chub or two, and also on occasions, some decent perch and roach. I have had some excellent pike fishing mornings on the Medway during these frosty spells and used to spend much of the time wandering along a likely stretch, bumping a small deadbait slowly along just above the bottom. It was an effective method, as it allowed me to cover a lot of water and my favourite bait for this method was a sandeel. I normally hooked these through the eye sockets on a size 4 barbless single hook - with a piece of rubber impaled on the point and then pulled down to the bend, which stopped it slipping off. Other good baits for this tactic were sprats and small dead roach, although the sandeel had the advantage of being less prone to hooking up in weed or other snags. I have to say that the average size of pike caught fishing this way was a lot smaller than on a static deadbait but, it certainly was an interesting and enjoyable way of fishing for them. As I have mentioned before, I often use one of my barbel rods for this type of fishing.*

*I can remember one occasion, a few years back now, when I was wandering on a river somewhere, I think it was up on the Broads, with a ten foot pound and a half stalking rod and just a sandeel, mounted as described above, and having already had a couple of fish, a low double and one of about eight pounds, I decided to stop for a cup of tea from my flask. This was something that I often did when wandering and I carried a small rod rest attached to my net handle for this very purpose. Having flicked the eel out toward some mid river reeds just downstream and out to my left, I propped the rod on the rest and sat down to pour my tea. I gulped the first mouthful but then noticed that the line, where it entered the water was slackening slightly. At first I thought that this was the 15lb nylon just sinking under its own weight, as the bait was free-lined, but something made me suspicious so I got to my feet and wound down on the bait. As*





Bob bumping a dead bait on the Medway

soon as I started to do this it became obvious that a fish had picked up the bait, as the line was now moving upstream. I quickly caught up with the pike and gave a firm strike - which had the effect of startling both me and the good sized pike, which leapt clear of the water - just a rod length in front of me. Dropping the rod to one side to avoid a tight line situation, I was then able to play this extremely angry fish in a relatively normal way and after a few anxious moments around the nearside reeds, I netted it safely. I can't remember the exact weight - it was over twenty pound and was bigger than anything that I had previously caught on the bumped sandeel. The question was, did I get it because the bait was temporarily static? It really didn't matter but, suffice to say that I often stopped for five minutes or so in one spot when wandering in the future. And did I get any more or bigger pike by doing this ? Well yes, but maybe not! One of the great things about fishing is that it is often almost impossible to draw conclusions and be totally sure. I think that I probably would not want it any other way!



A while back - Bob with a Medway pike on a frosty morning



Perch will feed in cool conditions


I have yet again, not made any firm resolutions for the coming year on the fishing front, as previous plans and ambitions about fishing on new stretches of river or lakes have often been

foiled by a variety of circumstances. I suppose that the only sensible one to have really is to try and make sure that I enjoy the coming year as much or more so than the last one. These days I believe that this often revolves around having the right attitude and realistic expectations of what to expect from my time at the waterside. I think that I am much better at doing that these days and so I am now really looking forward to an extremely enjoyable year."

## Best Fishes & Resolutions for 2020

Bob Morris

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While stocks last**

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All types of rods, built, rennovated or repaired!





# Trout Informer

## Tenterden Trout Waters Tenterden, Kent

We would like to wish all our anglers a very Happy and Healthy New Year with tight lines here at Tenterden for 2020. We have stocked some magnificent trout ranging from 3lbs-12lbs in all three lakes which we hope will be exciting for you all. We would recommend no less than a 6lb breaking strain otherwise you will be broken – we pride ourselves in stocking hard fighting fish!

Winter fishing has been good and as you can see from the photos some fine trout have been caught. **Gary White**, on his first visit to our fishery, caught this superb rainbow weighing in at 7lbs 14oz which put up a good fight. He caught it on a Black Mosaic with Jungle Cock on a Ghost Tip Line 6lbs 12 foot leader. **Peter Beeney** had a good brace with the largest weighing 5lbs caught on a Hopper and **Chad Goymer**, both regular anglers at Tenterden, landed a nice Brownie weighing in at 3lbs 3oz caught on a Hares Ear.

The rainfall has helped our water levels and all three lakes are at maximum capacity which is good to see. We have enjoyed some bright, cold and frosty mornings and many of our anglers have experienced good fishing on these days, the trout respond well to the cold and are very active.

Our Lakeside Fishing Lodge is being well used as a cosy, social Hub this Winter for our anglers when the weather closes in and they need to warm up with a complimentary tea/coffee. WC facilities are provided. It's also a great place to share with family and friends. The Lodge is available to hire for a private function - please contact us for further details.

Please check the Home Page on our website

[www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk](http://www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk) and click on the current month under Latest News for an up-to-date fishing

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*We aim to provide an excellent day's sport in beautiful Wealden Countryside.*  
Day Permit £35 = 4 best fish  
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Contact (01580) 763201  
[www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk](http://www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk)



Gary White  
7lbs 14ozs



Peter Beeney with  
his great brace  
of rainbows

report. We have an Aerial Tour on our Home Page so you can view our picturesque Wealden setting. Please follow us on Instagram and visit our Gallery.

We shall continue to encourage the young to learn the skill of fly fishing at Tenterden and Lake 2 provides the perfect setting to practise casting because it is more sheltered. If you are looking for some tuition, whatever your age or a new sport for 2020, then click on the Tuition Page of our website and book a lesson with Richard Stokes or email: [richard@coombe-farm.com](mailto:richard@coombe-farm.com)

We also offer Gift Vouchers for that special present, please call Gaynor on 01580 763201 or email [gaynor@coombe-farm.com](mailto:gaynor@coombe-farm.com) to make your purchase.

The Farm/Fishery is now available as a Wedding Venue whilst the Fishery is closed in the Summer and we are taking bookings for 2020/2021. Click on 'Wedding Venue' for further info on our website.

We look forward to welcoming you to our friendly Fishery for some relaxing downtime in the New Year.

Tight Lines – Gaynor, Richard & Audrey

## Lovely rainbow for Carl!

Carl Hildige sent in this report of a lovely rainbow he caught from the Albury Estate in Surrey: "Hi Barry. I caught this nice 8 lb 4 oz rainbow on a size 12 bloodworm pattern at the Albury Estate in Surrey. It is a lovely friendly fishery that I would recommend."



### GUIDED LURE & FLY FISHING DAYS WITH ANDY LUSH

#### Lure Fishing

Fish a variety of reservoirs for Pike, Perch and Zander. These days are suitable for beginners and improvers who wish to 'fast track' their way to success.

Learn more about lure fishing, the use of boats and fish finders, or just have a FUN day with an experienced Predator angler.

#### Fly Fishing

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

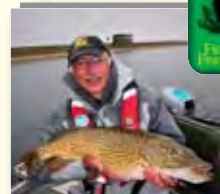
#### Trout

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

#### Carp & Pike

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

For details contact Andy Lush on 01892 528677



01892 826041 / 07951 304515



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





**Brick Farm Lakes** Herstmonceux, East Sussex

The last month has seen the onset of some heavy frosts, but with that has come some great sized fish for those hardy enough anglers who have braved the cold, including a 5lb brown caught by **Mary Carden**. We've hosted a few group Christmas days including Cinder Hill and Sussex Fly Dressers Guild when several good fish have been landed. Also, 8yr old **Tyler** caught himself a lovely 6lb rainbow at the end of November. We're also thrilled to announce that we achieved a rating of 5 Stars when the Council came on a surprise visit to the lodge for our food & hygiene inspection. **Spring Lake** is now full and we have begun to trickle stock it, as well as building some stands - we hope to open it fully by 1st March!

Tight lines and best wishes for the new year, The Axells

Hearty food at Brick Farm



Great fish for this lady angler



Frank



Tyler

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**Brick Farm Lakes Trout Fishery**

Prices start from £28 for 2 fish  
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with food options available

Set within the stunning East Sussex countryside, Brick Farm Lakes is a friendly family run Trout fishery comprising 3 lakes stocked with Rainbow, Blue, Golden and Brown trout, from 2lb upwards, including some double-figure sizes to challenge our anglers. Set back from the road, almost in a secret valley of it's own, we have a superb oak-framed lodge overlooking Brick Lake. The lodge provides a warm and welcome space offering complimentary tea & coffee for anglers, along with homemade cakes and other refreshments.



Tel: 01323 832615  
www.brickfarmlakes.co.uk

The Fishing Lodge  
Brick Farm  
Herstmonceux  
East Sussex  
BN27 4RS



## Global warming and Trout fishing?

I believe a radical change in the fly fishing season is urgently required if trout fisheries are to survive. For over forty years my fly fishing season started in April and finished in October. Of course with the introduction of sexless, triploid and diploid trout, we no longer need to restrict ourselves to the traditional fishing season.



It's always worth fishing the 'hang' whatever the time of year

Over the last few seasons I've become increasingly aware at how rapidly the water temperatures rise in the Spring. Fly fishermen know that once surface water temperatures reach 20 degrees centigrade the trout stop feeding and head for deep cool water, if it's available. On reservoirs, the fish will seek shelter at around thirty feet where the thermocline prevents the surface water mixing with the cold water below. Once there, they will feed on Daphnia and other small food items, whilst they are in their comfort zone. On our smaller stillwaters these depths do not exist so the fish find the deepest water available and endure the unsuitable conditions. This scenario is becoming all too familiar. The "dog days of summer" were considered to be July through into August, but now, I'm not so sure. From as early as June and up to late September or even October is now classed as very difficult, verging on the impossible.

### What to do?

Most trout anglers start their fishing season in early April, around about Easter. With the other Bank Holidays around this time too, it gets busy. It's an exciting time on all the fisheries as the colour returns to the countryside and with plenty of fresh hungry trout to be caught everyone is happy. Now consider what happens next. By the end of April, the water is about 12 degrees centigrade, a warm week in May and the water starts rapidly rising to 16 or even 18 degrees! The Mayfly season, the busiest few weeks of the year for some fisheries, is now shortened from four to maybe two weeks. By mid-June, the water hits 20 degrees and anglers start to disappear. They have every intention of returning in the Autumn, but life tends to swallow up all that free time and for most they don't return until the following Spring

### The solution

Trout are happiest in cold water, so we should fish for them then when they are active and likely to feed. If fisheries are prepared to stock their waters continuously through the Winter and promote this fact, I believe anglers would come. I suggest that we should now consider the season starting in October and ending in June, a radical move, but, essential for the future of our fishing and the fisheries that provide it.



Andy enjoyed some Christmas action at Hazel Copse



Despite the cold, the trout fed all day at Chequertree

It's important to get this message across as a positive move, a move to improve our fishing experience. I know from personal experience, it will create the need to learn some new methods and tactics to be successful. A new challenge is always an exciting prospect especially if your fishing has become a little stale. Fisheries will need to provide a warm sanctuary for their customers to take a break, preferably where hot refreshments and good toilets are available. Many forward thinking waters have already done this, Brick Farm, Chalk Springs, Coltsford Mill, Lakedown and Tenterden Trout Waters, to name a few.

We have to play our part and support these fisheries with our custom and promote the idea to our friends. Almost all our thinking has been directed at fishing in the Spring, Summer and Autumn. There will be new things to learn and I for one will be out there trying to build on last Winter's learning experience.



Another cold , but, enjoyable day when the trout really turned on at Norton



Trout are in peak condition during the colder months

### Why bother?

Well, in my opinion, the writing is on the wall for all our trout fisheries throughout the country. If we stick to the traditional season, i.e. start in April and stop when it gets too warm, we will consign them to a very short eight or ten week season. I'm not sure how many can or will want to continue?

### Contact details of local fly fisheries, use them or lose them!

Arlington Reservoir – Berwick	BN26 6TF	01634 276310
Bewl Water – Lamberhurst	TN3 8JH	01892 890000
Brick Farm – Herstmonceux	BN27 4RS	01323 832615
Chalk Springs – Arundel	BN18 0AA	01903 883742
Chalybeate Springs – Eridge	TN3 9JA	07583 071871
Chequertree – Bethersden	TN26 3JR	01233 820078
Chigborough – Maldon	CM9 4RE	01621 857268
Coltsford Mill – Oxted	RH8 9DG	01883 715666
Hazelcopse – Rudgewick	RH12 3AF	01403 822878
Lakedown Fishery – Burwash	TN21 8UX	01435 883449
Norton Fishery – Stapleford Tawney	RM4 1ST	01708 688525
Powdermill Reservoir – Sedlescombe	TN33 0PL	01424 870498
Springhill – Pembury	TN2 4BB	07951 304515
Stowting – Ashford	TN25 6B	01303 862401
Tenterden Trout Waters	TN30 6XA	01580 763201
Thornwood Springs – Epping	CM16 6LR	07588 669255

Tight lines for the coming year. Andy Lush

Andy offers a guiding service for those who wish to learn more about "Lure Fishing & Fly Fishing". For details visit [www.thefriendlyfisherman.co.uk](http://www.thefriendlyfisherman.co.uk) or phone 01892-528677



# Angling Societies

## The Linton Angling Society - Membership Vacancies

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

For further details contact: **Hon. Secretary: Chris Knowler on 07712 622858**

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

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

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

## Hastings Bexhill & District Freshwater Angling Association

Season runs from 1st April to 31st March.

Established in 1895 the association provides its members and day ticket anglers with various lakes and rivers to fish throughout Hastings, Bexhill and the surrounding area.

We currently have seven waters that provide a mixture of species at specimen weights to suit all anglers' preferences. As well as the lakes run by the association we also offer members the ability to fish various stretches of river in the surrounding area.

The association provides waters to suit all ages, abilities and interests so there's something for everyone.

To apply to become a member please download and print the application form from our website. Complete and return to the Membership officer on the application, alternatively it is possible to purchase your membership from any of the tackle shops listed on our website.

For further information please contact:

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

Postal enquiries: **S Corke, 2 The Siding, Bexhill-on-Sea TN40 1RF**

**[hastingsandbexhillangling.co.uk](http://hastingsandbexhillangling.co.uk)**

H.B.D.  
F.A.A.

Normanhurst Lake

Wishing Tree Reservoir

River Rother



## WANTSUM ANGLING ASSOCIATION

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**River Wantsum CT7 0QN / a section of the River Slour CT3 1JB**

**Marshside Fishery: Homersham Lake & Scroggins Lake CT3 4EF**

**Day Tickets available at all venues:**

**RIVERS:** Adult - £5 (Juniors to 16 years FOC)

**LAKES:**

Adults - £10 with loyalty card £7 — Juniors - 14 to 16 years - £5

Night Fishing (5pm to 7am): Adult - £15 with loyalty card £12

Night Fishing (24h): Adult - £25 with loyalty card £20

Juniors - (as for Day Tickets)

**Night fishing: Only by prior booking.**

**Note: Juniors up to 13 years to be with an adult - FOC**

**Please call 07766 623673 to book**



For further details contact the Secretary:  
**Rob Tuck-Brown on 07484 144561**  
or email: [robtuckbrown@hotmail.com](mailto:robtuckbrown@hotmail.com)  
Visit us at [www.WantsumAA.co.uk](http://www.WantsumAA.co.uk)



## Tonbridge & District A&FPS Club Waters

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Junior Members £10 + NO JOINING FEE

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**View the waters on the web [www.tonbridge-angling.co.uk](http://www.tonbridge-angling.co.uk)**

**PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB    Contact Donna on 07947 557140**

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# Sea Informer

## Medway and Kent Sea Fishing Group



Sea Reports are proudly sponsored by - Medway and Kent Sea Fishing Group

There have been plenty of fish caught around the coastline during the last few weeks. As darkness falls over the South East, the shoals of whiting appear from almost nowhere! There have been some decent sized fish among their numbers, and anglers are barely able to keep a bait in the water for many minutes before the



rod tip is rattling away, not giving other species the chance to get on the bait. January should see the numbers of whiting thin out and many will be hoping that the humble dabs begin to appear, particularly for the Dab Championship at Dungeness early next month. The thornbacks are appearing in greater numbers and some nice flounders are beginning to show. I am not going to mention the codling ...! With the weather getting colder and more unpredictable, fresh worms will be harder to obtain, so well worth a call to your local tackle shop to pre-order prior to a fishing trip. Sea temperature is still just about in double figures, but will no doubt begin to fall away sharply in the next few weeks as we descend further in to the winter period.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL TACKLE SHOP IN 2020!**

### Thames report courtesy of Wayne May

"Thames estuary charter boats are catching plenty of whiting and numerous codling ranging in size from 3lb to 6lb, pulley pennell rigs loaded with squid and lugworm works really well from the boats. Upriver between Gravesend and Greenhithe is fishing so well this year producing excellent whiting, plump and averaging 36cm and 40cm. Behind Asda at Greenhithe we have caught some of the best flounders in years, the smallest over 3 nights was 30cm up to 38cm, using 3 hook flapper with short snoods, baited with prawn or ragworm was a hit with the flounder. During the day we fished the same using imitation prawns tipped with squid which produced both whiting and flounder.



Thanks again to NJ tackle Gravesend for the great bait." **Call NJ Tackle on 01474 353998.**



slow with little to report. Increased numbers of flounders are expected along the Seasalter stretch as we move through in to January.

**For all your tackle and bait, please visit Sheppey Angling or call on 01795 661089.**

### Thanet report courtesy of Fisherman's Corner

"Fishing has been steady from Ramsgate's East Pier, Western Undercliff and beach. Plenty of whiting with the odd flatfish, dogfish and school bass. Local angler Chris Harman had a live whiting attacked and bitten by a suspected squid or cuttlefish in a recent session. There's a possibility that these are in fair numbers around Ramsgate but without local anglers trying for them, it's hard to gauge their numbers. If anyone fancies, try float fishing or slow twitching of squid jigs which are the preferred methods. **For any tackle or local advice, pop in or call Fisherman's Corner, Ramsgate situated at Ramsgate harbour.**" Tel: 01843 582174



### Medway report by Daniel Terry

"I had a session at Rochester using up some rag from a trip to Gravesend and trying for flounders. I also had some old fish bait that I found in the freezer. I thought I would chuck it out and see if a cod's about! However, it was constant whiting after whiting and I lost count having them two at a time on a spinning rod close in. The 'big rod' out in the middle had a fair few bigger ones and with one probably being a PB river whiting of just under 40cms. I thought it deserved a pic and a shot of the flounder from yesterday's trip. It has been good to have few days winter sun on the face. Thanks to Medway Tackle Supplies for some great ragworm."



**Medway Tackle Supplies has a great range of tackle and fresh and frozen baits. Call on 01634 475260.**

### Sheppey report courtesy of Sheppey Angling

The North island shore is still producing thornbacks to fish baits along with dogfish and whiting, although the whiting numbers are thinning out. Leysdown is showing increased numbers of dabs and flounders. Lug and small squid strips for the dabs and lug and maddies for the flounders. The Swale estuary has been



### Deal report courtesy of Channel Angling Deal

"For those who are fed-up with catching whiting and dogfish then the dabs are the fish to target at the moment. The larger specimens will fall to fish baits as they are feeding on sprats at this time of year. Hooks sizes need to be small and baited with lugworm tipped off with squid or herring. Dabs make great eating as they belong to the sole family. Thornback ray will start to show on the pier and Sandwich Bay - for those prepared to use a big bait and wait. Again herring, bluey and squid make ideal baits presented on a large hook and pulley rig."

**Call Channel Angling Deal for all your bait and tackle and great local advice on 01304 373104.**

### Hythe and surrounding areas shore report by Stevie Bates

"This month has seen fishing along Hythe and the surrounding areas very bountiful. The usual suspects dogs, whiting and pouting are out in full force seeing pleasure anglers catch on every trip. There are a better number of early dabs starting to show mid-afternoon into dusk and





falling to frozen or week-old smelly lug tipped with squid. Decent whiting of 30cm are around in good numbers which is great news as whiting are a very nice tasting fish although can be a nuisance when anglers are targeting other species. There has been the odd nice bass falling to whole fresh whiting but with the abundance of small prey fish around, I imagine the bigger bass are gorging themselves and you would be very lucky to land a big bass. With some big tides and calmer spells of weather, the sea has had a chance to settle bringing thornbacks back into within casting distance. Some anglers have landed up to 6 decent fish in daylight hours which is great to see and a nice change from catching whiting and dogfish. Best times to fish anywhere along Hythe is 1-2 hours after HW with dusk and night tides producing the better fish.

Hopefully with the colder unsettled weather that is forecast through December, the next report might have a codling or two, who knows? Be sure to get yourself down to the beach after a big blow and look for any washed-up bait as this would also be a good time to try for a codling if they are there!" **Your Local Tackle shop for bait and tackle is Dens Tackle 01303 267053. Good Luck and Tight Lines.**

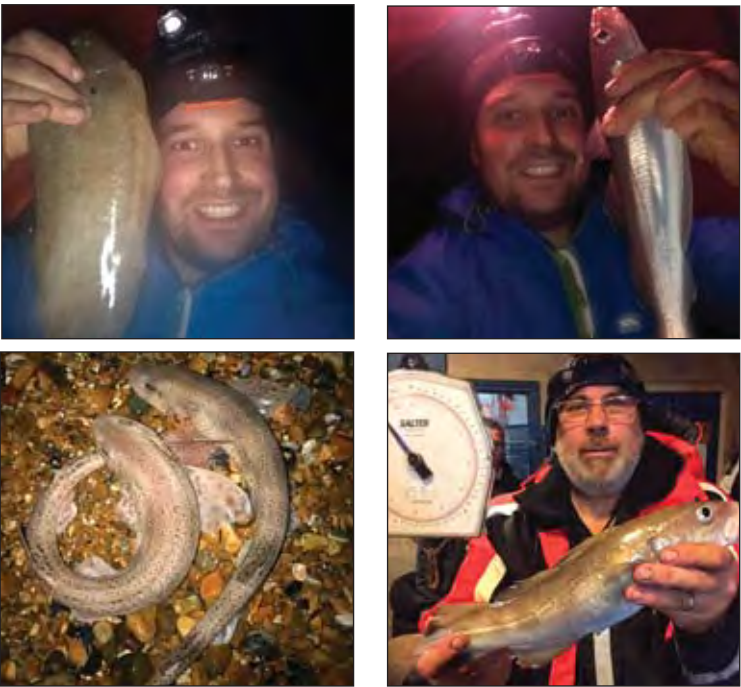


**Eastbourne area report courtesy of Tony's Tackle**

"This month's fishing has consisted of a massive influx of whiting from Sussex shore marks with black lug being the main diet. Between gales, packs of dogfish have been showing on Langney Point and Pevensey beaches. Colin Everest landed 7 in an Anderida club match and I even managed a treble shot myself catching eight in a 3 hour nomads match at Langney from peg 27 back of the leisure pool. From peg 11 Steve Frost caught a rare codling on black lug. Seaford beaches continue to throw up massive plaice when the sea is calm and clear at range. Darryl Gosling caught a 1 lb 4 oz flounder. Bexhill beaches continue to produce huge bass on mackerel and squid bait also reports of a few more congers on fish baits. In the boats, there have been rays, cod, wrasse and a few big plaice. Bass have been caught regularly from rock marks close to the light tower on livebaits. Eastbourne charter boat Panther has landed some quality fish and can do a good price for single anglers. I predict some good cod from boat and beach marks this month from selective marks. Along the South coast match fishing weights are well up with 15 to twenty pound weights of fish most matches and these are now catch and release.

Please send your catch reports and news to me at Tony's Tackle. You can pop in and see me or call on 01323 731388 or visit the website at [www.tonystackle.shop.co.uk](http://www.tonystackle.shop.co.uk) or our Facebook page."

**Tight lines and a Happy New Year to you all. Tony Kirrage.**



**HASTINGS** report courtesy of Hastings Angling Centre  
Another very mixed weather month with mild windy and very wet spells, cold northerly winds and frosts and even a sprinkle of snow! There was even a few days of bright calm weather for the boats to get out.

On the beach, the whiting are in abundance with dabs and flounders and a few dogfish and bass making up the numbers. At least the rods are rattling regularly even if the quality is lacking. Talking of lacking, the codling have not arrived and it doesn't look like they will now. Just the very odd one being caught.

Out in the boats, the rays are about still, the plaice have or are spawning now so will not be worth catching for months being very thin. Plenty of wrasse on the Sovereign reefs, good fun on light lure tackle.

I had a rare catch while off Dungeness in the shape of a very good spurdog of 15lb 10oz, bit out of season, usually a Spring fish, but the warm sea temperatures are throwing up all sorts this year. Kept alive in the live bait tank, weighed on the East Hastings SAA scales and returned alive. It took half a mackerel on the uptide rod intended for tope and gave a good scrap. Alan said he hasn't had one on the boat for best part of 30 years. Let us hope they are making a comeback.

Prospects for January on the beach are for dabs, flounders and ling with the whiting maybe thinning out. In the boats, the big pollack will be gathering on the deep wrecks ready to spawn in March. Hopefully fattening up well on the herring and sprats. I doubt we will see many, if any cod. In the Winter any opportunity to get afloat is a bonus and must be taken as weeks can go by without a chance.



**DAVE READ MEMORIAL MATCH**

A very good turnout of top anglers fished the annual Dave Read memorial match in early December. Conditions were good with a sharp chilly ESE wind giving a good surf and plenty of colour in the water. The whiting arrived in some numbers with some large bags being made. Lack of quality fish though, maybe due to the hordes of whiting not giving anything else a chance to find the bait.

**Results:**

Winner fishing at Stamco was **Eddie Ryder** with 29 fish for 10 lb 12oz.  
Best flatfish was **Stuart Homewood's** flounder of 13.4oz.  
Heaviest round went to **Paul Tiltman** with a bass of 14oz.



A Zone	B Zone	C Zone
1st <b>Nathen Elliott</b> 22 fish - 8lb 4oz	1st <b>Saul Page</b> 24 fish - 9lb 9oz	1st <b>Keith Erridge</b> 22 fish - 8lb 2oz
2nd <b>Paul Parsons</b> 22 fish - 7lb 8oz	2nd <b>Colin Crosby</b> 24 fish - 8lb 5oz	2nd <b>Ian Hopper</b> 22 fish - 7lb 12oz
3rd <b>Kerry Saint</b> 15 fish - 6lb 12oz	3rd <b>Nick May</b> 19 fish - 8lb 4oz	3rd <b>Brett Cotter</b> 21 fish - 7lb 11oz



## MASTERING MULLET - PART ONE

**Firstly, a Happy New Year to you all, may your lines be tight in 2020!**

The name of this magazine would hint that most readers are of a coarse angling persuasion. The quality of content within suggests that most who read this magazine are thinking anglers, people who like a descent challenge from their angling. Mullet will give the most rounded and experienced coarse angler a challenge and with tackle and methods they are used to using. To fish for and regularly catch mullet requires the patience of a saint (!) and the mind-set of a disciplined martial artist! More time is spent disciplining oneself not to make a cast than is actually spent fishing. Once the angler has come to terms with this, the activity of mullet fishing can become highly addictive.



Bradwell Marina

As a kid I was lucky to basically have free reign of Bradwell Marina in Essex. The first fishing that I did actually on my own was done here and was for flounders. Thirty five years ago Bradwell Marina was full of flounders and some were of a very good size. My long time friend Simon Manning and I once caught 39 flounders in one morning from the marina. Despite the good sport that the flounders gave us youngsters, it was the mullet that had us oar struck. Our attempts to catch them back then were futile, mullet don't like lumps of peeler crabs being dangled in front of them and would almost instantly spook. Dad's crew back then, Dick Train, once told me "mullet have eluded far better anglers than you Sam." After a few years of being at secondary school, Simon made a fish spear as a metal work project. This proved very good for impaling any mullet that dared poke its head from the safety of the pontoon floats. We would then bake these fish in the oven on my Dads old boat "Roker". To say that baked mullet is nice to eat would be a lie, it's a bit like warm fishy cotton wool!



My last mullet from Bradwell Marina c1995

Somehow word got back to my father about what we were up to! He was not happy and I was banned from spearing mullet. About five hundred yards from Bradwell beach is the Baffle. The Baffle is the heat exchanger for the now 'dead' nuclear power station. I had spent lots of time there with my Dad tagging bass over the years. This area did hold thousands of mullet when the power station was active. Simon and I would take our dinghy the mile from the marina to the Baffle armed with uptide rods, five ounce weights and 5/0 cod hooks. We would then snag mullet on these hooks and turn our dinghy into what looked like a horror film scene. Again Dad found out and this time went mad at us, ranting about how it was barbaric and that we should learn how to catch mullet properly. I shall now explain how we did this and how satisfying it was to catch our first mullet by fair means!

Around this time in my life, I started seeing a young lady from a neighbouring village. This girl would also play a small part in our mullet fishing. Much to my delight she liked to wear fish net stockings, very short skirts and knee high boots. The skirts and boots were useless for mullet fishing, however, the fishnet stocking helped Simon and I catch our first fairly caught mullet. In my late teens, I was very friendly with our village baker Mieke,

she was a large German lady who very much enjoyed eating fish. I very much like eating pies and pastries so we often traded! This friendship lasted well into my 20s and became part of the key to unlocking the mullet fishing in Bradwell marina. The agreement that I had with Mieke was to drop her off the odd cod and occasional bass and she would give me sacks of yesterday's products. So armed with several large sacks of bread, and pockets of stolen fishnet stockings,



A classic bait!

we set about the first day of our first summer's campaign on the mullet of Bradwell Marina. We started by stuffing the stockings full of bread and hanging them from the pontoons. We soon learnt that the stockings needed weighing down as bread floats. We then put several stones into the stockings before stuffing them full of bread and after a while and with a few squeezes, the stockings would sink. It really is amazing just how quickly marine life will respond to bread. First to arrive are the shrimps and prawns, quickly followed by sand smelts, sticklebacks and even one group of bass. Giving the stockings the odd shake would allow clouds of bread to cascade through the water, even crabs would gather to collect bread particles that had got trapped on the weed that grows on the pontoon floats. All this was fascinating to us, we would spend long periods on our stomach's peering into the water just watching and waiting for a mullet to start feeding. After several weeks of this it was becoming obvious that we were missing something. We had caught fish, it turns out that eels, flounders and small bass all eat bread, however, the mullet still eluded us. We felt sure that our tackle was correct. I had been told that standard freshwater float fishing tackle was all that is needed to catch mullet. I had seen mullet respond to mackerel guts in Cherbourg harbour during a couple of boating holidays several years previous and had watched family friend Con swiftly catch one on float gear. But these were mullet used to feeding on fish offal as the boats there would often discard it over the side, in fact the mullets there would fight over the fish scraps. Looking back they were almost tame fish that I imagine the locals fed along with the sea gulls. It wasn't until much later that summer that I found out what we were doing wrong. There was an ex charter boat in the marina named Bellis that was owned by a cracking old boy called Alan. As it turned out Alan would fish for the mullet and on the quiet had caught a few over the years. The key word is in my last sentence "quiet is the key Sam". Alan said "I just sit here quietly, no sudden movements, no heavy feet and eventually they come".

Towards the end of that summer, I fractured my arm when I slid off my moped, and had to spend six weeks off work. After a few weeks, I was climbing the walls with boredom so went and sat quietly down the marina fishing for mullet. Sure enough the mullet came, the first sign was the string that attaches the bread filled stockings to the pontoon started to twitch. The mullet were swimming straight into the stocking and then circling round picking up the particles of bread. At one point there were at least five fish feeding from the stocking, it wasn't long until my float sailed away and I was playing a nice mullet. On landing the fish, I was shaking with excitement, the kind of excitement only a fellow angler could understand. It was a modest fish of around two and a half pounds, in fact it was the smallest of the five fish I had been watching. But I didn't care about size, I had caught a mullet fairly and for that one moment in time I felt that I could do anything. Dad was chuffed that I had finally caught a mullet fairly and many phone calls were made to angling friends. He in fact phoned more people about my first mullet than he did when I



Irish mullet

passed my driving test a few years later. For the remainder of that summer, Simon and I caught several mullet and got smashed up by some quite large fish. The problem was that our gear wasn't really up to the task. Our line was only four pound test and the float rods just did not have to back bone to bully these had fighting fish. This often led to the fish wrapping the line around one of the barnacle clad poles. As soon as that happened the line would part. Unfortunately, at that time the camera phone had yet to be invented, so the only picture I have is from the very end of this time. What is far sadder is that all fishing is now banned from Bradwell marina. This was probably not helped by a couple of commercial fishermen gill netting the marina at night, not the brightest of ideas!

We soon adapted and in Part Two of Mastering Mullet, I will attempt to explain a few good tips for catching mullet in different locations."

Tight lines, Sam Cox



A very Happy New Year to you all! Have I got 2020 vision? No, but if somebody asks my opinion what we will catch in the year to come, I would be positive; I expect more fish for those who can be bothered to get out there. Yes, I know we have not had loads of cod, but we have had so much more. I have never known so many bass, we are knee deep in whiting, loads of dogfish, oodles of thornback rays and a rise in the number of smoothound and a return of the spurdog. I could go on, but it all depends on your point of view, it's my opinion; I'm looking forward to some superb fishing in 2020.

## BEACH REPORT

As the year draws to an end, how has the fishing been over the last year? There have been loads of fish caught, not what we wanted which was cod, but there have been a few! I think 2019 will be remembered as the year of the bass.

### Wayne had a good day at Hythe

*I had this report in from Del this morning...*

"Morning Tony, we held our annual pub fishing comp at Hythe yesterday, a very enjoyable day. We had mainly whiting, but good sport. One 10 ozs plaice, one doggy of good size.

The comp was won by Wayne Evans with a lovely thornback of 5lb 8oz. Cheers, Del Phipp."

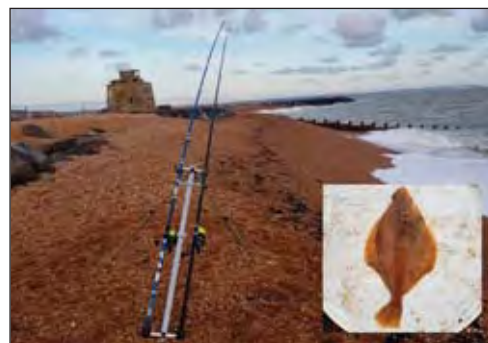


### Yes it was cold...but enjoyable!

*I had this report in last night from Neil Rodwell fishing Langley Point, famous as a big fish venue from the seventies. I had some fun sessions there.*

"Hi Tony. Gave Langley Point ago today. Managed a handful of whiting also caught

pout, school bass and dab as the sun went down. Very cold and a choppy sea but enjoyable to get out. Will speak soon. Neil"



## BEACH OUTLOOK FOR JANUARY

Traditionally this is the month for a really big cod. I'm just dreaming, but you never know what could turn up. The one species we look forward to at this time of year growing in numbers are dabs, in my opinion one of the tastiest fish in the sea.

### BEST BAITS

The classic bait for a dab is a lugworm tipped with a strip of sprat. Dabs are famous for liking the 'oldest' of lugworm, but any fish bait will work, much easier with elastic cotton to bind it on.

## BOAT REPORTS

**Great fishing...  
but not easy...**

*This report came in tonight from Anthony out on Peganina (07989778361) from Rye:*

"Around 12 congers best one in the photo. Also had pollock, mackerel, scad, gurnard, squid, whiting, pouts. Strange old day 0415 start lots of lump in the water, rain till day light and then the tide never really got going so all in all great effort from the lads!!"



## Dab World Champs 2020

Dungeness Angling Association proudly present

# THE *IRONIXPRO* WORLD DAB FISHING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2020

Dungeness, Kent. Sunday 9th February 2020  
SPONSORED BY *IRONIXPRO*,  
*SEA ANGLER MAGAZINE* and *ZIPLIX*

Become World Dab Fishing Champion 2020. *Tronixpro* Goodie Bag for the Top 10.  
Under 16 entrants compete to be Junior World Champion (Trophy and prize for winner - juniors must be accompanied by an adult).

### Nice to see the kids having fun

*I had this report in last night from Terry Carpenter of the DAA Juniors...*

"DAA juniors had their meeting today on a lovely morning at Littlestone, ten young fishers tried hard to catch and I'm pleased to say that they all caught loads of whiting and doggies. Young George won the competition and took home a turkey with another George taking home a large Xmas Pud!"



### A frosty start ...great mixed bag

*I had this report in this afternoon from Anthony out on Peganina (07989778361) from Rye...*

"Bream, pollack, mackerel, scad, pouts, gurnards and a lovely turbot off the wrecks today."



## A cracking Tope for Dave

*I had this report in this evening from Jerry Oiller of Fairchance fame launching from Dungeness beach:*

"Fairchance fishing Dungeness 01797 363544. Dave Foggy Robinson aboard today, A beautiful winters day, sea like a sheet of glass and fish to be caught. Dave had a 38 lb tope, caught uptide in 120 ft of water, 4 thornback rays to 10lb, strings of jumbo mackerel, 3 or 4 tub gurnard, greater weavers, dogfish and whiting. Happy Days are here again."



## Full of turbo's and silver ladies

*I had this report in this afternoon from Anthony out on Peganina (07989778361) from Rye:*



"Thought we would try something different today, no monsters but plenty of fish and as many bass as you wanted (shame we can't take any), a few turbot as well and the added bonus - not a whiting or dogfish in sight!!! The photo is of a very happy Bob with his tea."

## Now for something different

*I saw this report in from Jerry Oiller this evening...*

"Fairchance fishing Dungeness 01797 363544. New Horizons. With the lack of cod at the moment, we thought of trying something different, squidding! Hey Presto, 32 squid and 6 good cuttlefish, well done Chris, Bob and Simon, you tried hard. Happy Days."



## Gone with the wind...just check

*I had this report in from Anthony out on Peganina (07989778361) from Rye...*

"Sorry for the late report, Tuesday's conger trip and Wednesday's turbot trip were both very challenging days due to the absolutely none existent ebb tide, although saying that we still managed 4 and half eels (I lost mine at the leader) Tuesday and on Wednesday after 3 hours of waiting for the tide and no turbot we went for plan B, I had 8 squid myself and the other lads had a few too and loads of monster Tub Gurnards so they still went home with loads for the Pot. Looks like few days off now looking at the forecast."



## The day turned out well

*I saw this from Jerry Oiller:*

"Fairchance fishing Dungeness 01797 363544. The Three Amigos, in the boat today, also known as the Goddard Brothers. Hard going today, but managed to boat 7 thornback, the best going 12 lb, a good spurdog, mackerel, tub gurnards. Some good whiting and plenty of dogfish! A pleasant day to be afloat, with a cheerful crew. Happy Days."



## BOAT OUTLOOK FOR JANUARY

It depends on the weather and how low the sea temperature goes, but we don't get the cold like we used to do. I expect the fishing to be good if the wind allows us to get afloat. The New Year is traditionally the start of the wrecking season for pollack, but nowadays it appears to be all year round. Will anybody be 'lucky' and find a big cod? As I have said before, the fish are there if we can get out.

## BEST BAITS

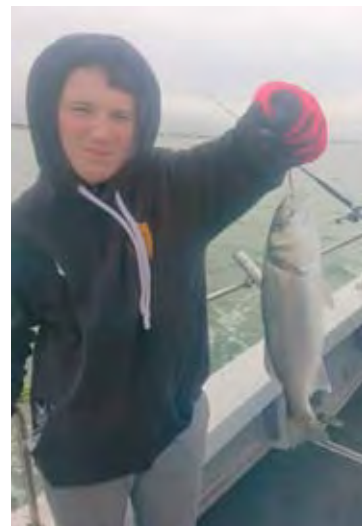
Big baits, all the fish baits work (my favourite is Bluey), squid can be good, cuttlefish is tougher."

## KENT BOAT REPORT

courtesy of Jason Parrott

"The cod haven't arrived again! We had hoped for a few, but, no. I've been pumping worms and rolling and freezing for punters onboard the Lady Ann but, the only fish we are catching in numbers are whiting and dabs. The dab fishing has been OK but not it is not everyone's cup of tea. Unfortunately, they are tight inshore so this limits the mixed fishing for skate and few bass. The bass are here in numbers but, they are swimming through so you do get lucky where they will go to the bottom and have a feed with some reasonable fish being caught. The sprats and herrings are here in numbers and if you want to have some fun buy Sabuki feathers and wait for slack water and you will catch them in numbers, but only around the slack water period. Although I've tried using them as live baits for skate and bass, all I seem to catch are dogfish on them. This is the same as live baiting with whiting as we have had a few skate but no bass. I always say to my punters to fish for what's there and enjoy! We have had some good months but, unfortunately, now it gets a bit harder, but the 2ft baguettes keep the punters amused and fed well!"

Hope to see some of you aboard Lady Ann of Ramsgate in 2020.



If you fancy a great day afloat with Jason, give him a call on 07966 273650.



# Richard finds the rays!

Top local rod, Richard Smith, sent in this great report during a lull in the December weather: "Hi Barry, I had a short session at Hythe last night. Flat calm sea after the wind had been blowing all day. One rod out at distance, baited with bluey on a pulley dropper rig. The rays came on the feed 45min before high tide. Nothing big but managed to get three out. Strangely enough the whiting were not there in numbers which definitely helped with my catches. Still pulled out a few dogfish though."



# A very rare fish for sure



This remarkable report came through to me and although not from our patch, I thought I would feature it as it is a very unusual catch.

Arran Anning caught this 9lbs 12ozs albino thornback from a mark in the Bristol Channel!

The fish was released once photographed.

# Big haddock for Ron!

Long time magazine subscriber, Ron Shepherd, sent me this great catch report from a boat trip he enjoyed recently. Ron caught this magnificent haddock of 5lbs 2ozs on a running leger baited with mackerel strip from the charter boat Bite Adventures skippered by Rob Chapman out of Penzance. Ron said that he can still catch them even at 79 years of age! Top angling Ron!



# DUNGENESS ANGLING ASSOCIATION JUNIORS

"The D.A.A. juniors held their Christmas meet in mid December at Littlestone beach on a wet, thundery day with hailstones thrown in on for good measure. There were 14 young anglers fishing and all caught whiting up to 35 cm and after the match all went to the Pilot for dinner which the pub kindly sponsored. They then had their prize giving and all had a prize which was either a rod, reel or rigs. Malaki won the Pilot shield and Jack Taylor won the biggest bass trophy.



Thanks to all who attended plus a big thank you to John Smith for his continued support and to the Pilot pub for the kids' meal. A special thanks to Alex for all his help throughout the year." Terry Carpenter





# Directory

## COARSE FISHERIES

<b>Beaver Farm Fishery</b> Eastbourne Road, Newchapel, Lingfield RH7 6HL	<b>01342 324006   07710 656041</b>
<b>Charlies Lakes</b> Steeds Lane, Kingsnorth, Ashford TN26 1NH	<b>07857 539785</b>
<b>Chequertree Trout &amp; Coarse Fishery</b> Bethersden, Nr Ashford TN26 3JR	<b>01233 820078</b>
<b>Coombewood Fishery</b> Redbrook Street, High Halden, Nr Ashford TN26 3JH	<b>07895 679569</b>
<b>Elphicks Fisheries</b> Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden TN12 8EL	<b>01580 212512</b>
<b>Furnace Brook Fishery &amp; Fish Farm</b> Trolliloes, Cowbeech, Nr Hailsham BN27 4QR	<b>01435 830835</b>
<b>Gabriels Fishery</b> Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP	<b>07730 066088</b>
<b>Greenacres Farm Fishery</b> Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden TN27 8EH	<b>07933 934942</b>
<b>Hartley Lands Fishery</b> Swattenden Lane, Cranbrook TN17 3PS	<b>07703 825064</b>
<b>Hawkhurst Fish Farm</b> Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	<b>01580 753813</b>
<b>Horam Manor Fishery</b> Horam Manor Farm, Horam TN21 0JB	<b>01323 840889   07707 759364</b>
<b>Iden Wood Fishery</b> Coldharbour Lane, Iden, Rye TN31 7UT	<b>01797 280180   07906 232225</b>
<b>Knightingales Fishery</b> Stone-in-Oxney, Nr Tenterden TN30 7HA	<b>07941 176205</b>
<b>Mousehole Lakes</b> Maidstone Road, Nettlestead, Nr Paddock Wood ME18 5HR	<b>07725 783405</b>
<b>Orchard Place Farm Fishing Lakes</b> Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood TN12 6NY	<b>01892 838576   07860 608218</b>
<b>Sandwich Lakes Coarse Fishery</b> Sandwich Ash Road (A257), Near Canterbury CT3 2DA	<b>07936 409912</b>
<b>Tanyard Fishery</b> Tanyard Lane, Furners Green, Uckfield TN22 3RL	<b>07833 532842</b>
<b>Tricklebrook Fishery</b> Colts Hill, Five Oak Green TN12 6SH	<b>07743 955812</b>
<b>Wylands International AC</b> Wylands Farm, Powdermill Lane, Battle TN33 0SU	<b>01424 893394</b>

## TROUT FISHERIES

<b>Brick Farm Lakes</b> Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux BN27 4RS	<b>01323 832615</b>
<b>Chalk Springs</b> Park Bottom, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 0AA	<b>01903 883742</b>
<b>Cinder Hill Fly Fishing</b> Membership available from <a href="mailto:r.nathan@btinternet.com">r.nathan@btinternet.com</a>	<b>01892 770903</b>
<b>Hazel Copse Trout Fishery</b> Baynards, Rudgwick, West Sussex RH12 3AF	<b>01403 822878</b>
<b>Spring Hill Trout Waters</b> Albans Farm, Romford Road, Pembury TN2 4BB	<b>07951 304515</b>
<b>Tenterden Trout Waters</b> Coombe Farm, Chennell Park Road, Tenterden TN30 6XA	<b>01580 763201</b>

## ANGLING CLUBS / SOCIETIES

<b>Bromley (Kent) &amp; District AS</b> PO Box 895, East Grinstead RH19 9ND	<b>bdas-kent-enquiry@bdaskent.co.uk</b>
<b>Hastings, Bexhill &amp; District</b> Chris Pagan 07429 655237   Steve Potter 07935 268174 Postal enquiries: S.Corke, 2 The Siding, Bexhill-on-Sea TN40 1RF	
<b>Linton Angling Society</b> Chris Knowler 07712 622858 <a href="mailto:chris@lintonangling.co.uk">chris@lintonangling.co.uk</a>	
<b>Tonbridge &amp; District A &amp; FPS</b> PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB	<b>Donna 07947 557140</b>
<b>Wantsum Angling Association</b> Rob Tuck-Brown (secretary) 07484 144561	<b>robtuckbrown@hotmail.com</b>

## TACKLE & BAIT SUPPLIES

<b>Absolute Tackle</b> 12 Wealden Forest Park, Herne Common CT6 7LQ	<b>01227 636724   07809 330854</b>
<b>Bodle Angling</b> Southdown Store, Cuckfield Road, Burgess Hill RH15 8RE	<b>01444 247757</b>
<b>Camos Carp Cabin</b> 11 Turner Street, Ramsgate CT11 8NJ	<b>01843 581784</b> <b><a href="http://www.camoscarpcabin.net">www.camoscarpcabin.net</a></b>
<b>Carpers Den</b> Ashford Road, High Halden, Ashford TN26 3LJ	<b>01233 850644</b>
<b>Channel Angling</b> 158-160 Snargate Street, Dover CT17 9BZ	<b>01304 203742</b>
<b>Crowborough Tackle</b> Shop 2, Lexden Lodge, Crowborough Hill, Crowborough TN6 2EG	<b>01892 667671</b>
<b>Dens Tackle</b> 73 Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6JN	<b>01303 267053</b>
<b>Fishing Tackle &amp; Bait</b> Ralph's Farm Shop & Nursery, Wierton Road, Boughton Monchelsea ME17 4JW	<b>07724 776031</b>
<b>Henfold Bait &amp; Tackle</b> Henfold Lakes, Henfold Lane, Newdigate, Dorking RH5 4RW	<b>07956 043922</b>
<b>Hooked on Green</b> Unit 2, Bellbrook Industrial Estate, Uckfield TN22 1QL	<b>01825 760139</b>
<b>Kent Tackle</b> Hawkhurst Fish Farm, Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	<b>01580 754422</b>
<b>Medway Tackle Supplies</b> 11 Twydall Green, Gillingham ME8 6JY	<b>01634 475260</b>
<b>NJ Tackle</b> 150 Milton Road, Gravesend DA12 2RG	<b>Tel: 01474 353998</b>
<b>Orchard Tackle</b> 58 High Brooms Road, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9DB	<b>Tel: 07494 670328</b>
<b>Sheppey Angling</b> Unit 5, Regis Business Park, New Road, Sheerness ME12 1HA	<b>Tel: 01795 661089</b>
<b>South London Angling Centre</b> 286 Lee High Road, London SE13 5PJ	<b>Tel: 0208 852 4451</b>
<b>Sues Tackle Cabin</b> The Spice Warehouse, Rye Harbour Road, Rye TN31 7TE	<b>Tel: 01797 225015   07980 290247</b>
<b>Tony's Tackle Shop</b> 211 Seaside Road, Eastbourne BN22 7NP	<b>Tel: 01323 731388</b>
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