



plus JUNIOR INFORMER pages 24-28, TROUT INFORMER pages 37-41, SEA INFORMER pages 42-49

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*Merry Christmas
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to all for a happier and
brighter New Year*

Photo courtesy of Mark Chidwick



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Hello and welcome to a combined Festive Season Freshwater Informer!

You do not need me to tell you that 2020 has been far from an ordinary year!

Everyone's lives have been turned upside down and inside out and back again since Spring and the Freshwater Informer, like so many other businesses has been affected. We have tried to work within all the restrictions, but, at times we have had no control on outside influences. As you can see from the front cover, this issue is a combined December and January 'festive' issue which means there will be no magazine in January. The reason for doing a joint edition was due to the fact that as we have to work so far ahead in the production of each month's magazine, we were unable to predict whether restrictions would be lifted in early December. Even at the time of writing this, I still have no idea if you will be reading this from a printed magazine or from the website! Due to the Christmas period, we have to have an early deadline for the January issue. With all the current uncertainty, I would have been delivering the December magazines when the January deadline fell, I hope you are still with me? With that in mind, we put back the December deadline by a week and decided to put out a combined December / January magazine. This then takes the pressure off of producing a January issue.

Apart from all the mayhem caused by the pandemic, this year has been a remarkably successful one for the magazine, despite being 'out of circulation' for several months. As you have seen over the year, the content continues to improve to provide you with a quality monthly read each and every month. The advantage we have is that the content is all local and therefore relevant to the South East's anglers and 1000's of local anglers have appeared on the pages throughout the year!

The magazine is funded purely from our advertisers and sponsors which is why there is no cover charge to readers, unlike all other angling publications. I would sincerely like to thank all of the advertisers and sponsors who have supported the Freshwater Informer throughout 2020 and I look forward to working with you all in 2021 and beyond.

Now dear readers, I would like to thank you for all your support! The Freshwater Informer continues to grow and reach out to the region's angling community and I am most grateful for all the positive feedback that is received. I receive a surprising number of letters in the post from anglers who have enjoyed a particular article or edition and who want to let me know. Our Facebook page continues to be hugely popular with nearly 8,000 followers and I appreciate all those who get involved and engage on the page.

With so much going on and after a difficult year, I really do wish everyone a Happy Christmas. Let us hope for a happier and brighter (and healthier) New Year!

Don't forget, we will be back in February!

Enjoy your fishing, Barry Reed

The Freshwater Informer

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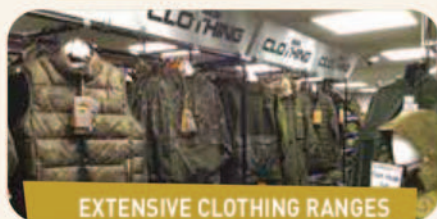
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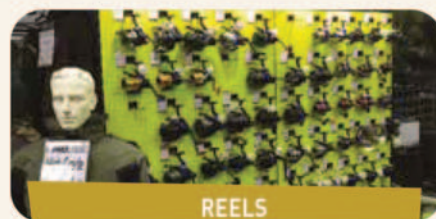
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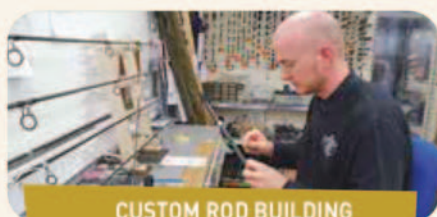
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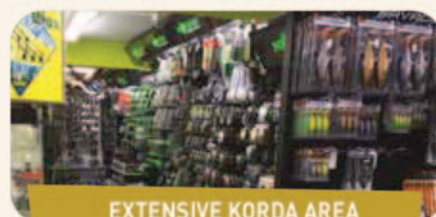
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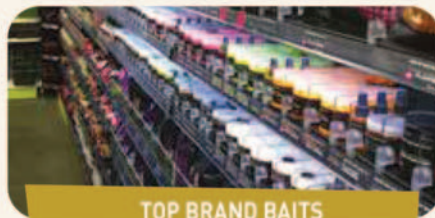
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Tricklebrook Fishery

Five Oak Green, Kent



Ian Wheeler - 32lbs - New Lake



Kenny Skingley - 34lbs - New Lake



Liam Latter - 35lbs - New Lake



Patrick John - 32lb 8ozs



Liam Baker - 24lbs



Andy - 26lbs - New Lake



Andy - 27lbs - New Lake



Joe Gray - 26lbs - Old Lake

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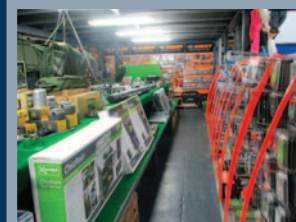
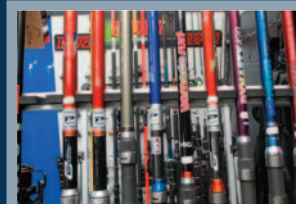
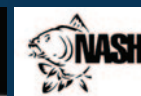
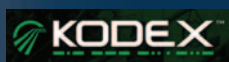
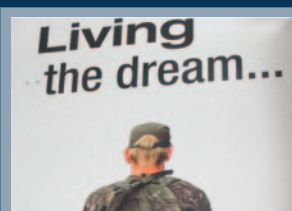
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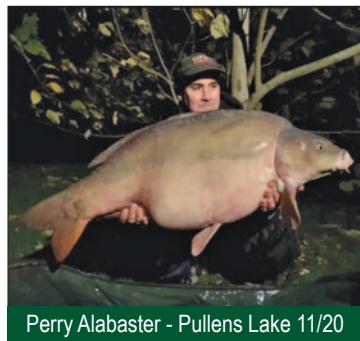
*** IMPORTANT NEWS FROM ELPICKS ***

Mark Pallett, Elphicks fishery manager, has had to make some important changes to booking at Elphicks in early January. The 'annual pilgrimage' to Elphicks on the 2nd January to queue and book your lake will **NOT** happen in 2021!

Due to the virus and its restrictions, anglers are being asked to PHONE from 7am on the 2nd January 2021 to make their whole lake bookings. Please be patient when calling as the phone lines are sure to be busy!

Anyone queuing to make a booking in person will be turned away. The only people to be able to access Elphicks on 2nd January 2021 will be those anglers who are booked on to fish for that day.

For further information, please call Mark and the team at Elphicks on 01580 212512.



Perry Alabaster - Pullens Lake 11/20



Plantation Lake 11/20



Plantation Lake 11/20



Tim Stanbridge - 22lb 6oz Kettles Lake 11/20

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www.elphicks-fisheries.co.uk



Adam Honeysett - Prairie Lake 11/20



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19lb 2oz Common - Quarry Lake - Joe Donovan



22lb Common - Dove Lake - Levi Jeffery



24lb 8oz Common - Main Lake - Sam Hamill



25lb 14oz Common - Dove Lake - Charlie Cooper



26lb Mirror - Dove Lake - David Curd



30lb 2oz Mirror - Main Lake - Jack Bond



31lb Common - Main Lake - Rob Buckmaster



31lb Mirror - Specimen Lake - John Bellinger



32lb 8oz Catfish - Quarry Lake - Peter Baldock



34lb 4oz Mirror - Specimen Lake - Roger Williams



39lb 4oz Catfish - Main Lake - Sam Hamill

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41lb 9oz Common - Specimen Lake - Lyndsay Rapacchi



42lb 8oz Blue Carp - Specimen Lake - Luke Oliver



47lb Catfish - Main Lake - Shaun Calladine



70lb Catfish - Specimen Lake - Lyndsay Rapacchi



Quarry Lake - Mike Berry



Quarry Lake - Ollie Ruck



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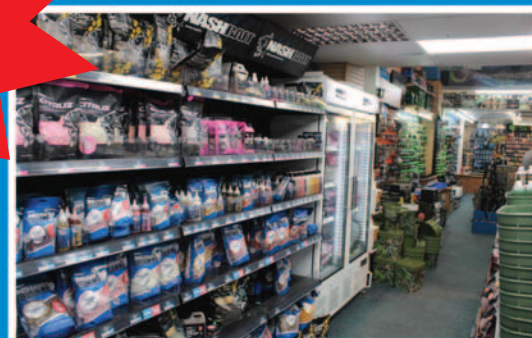
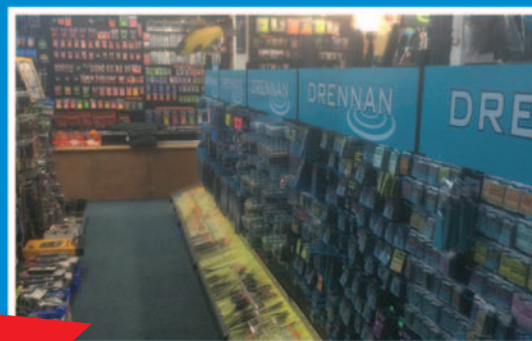
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Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society

Catch reports have slowed up now the colder weather has kicked in.

Old Ballast Pit Still some nice carp being caught with some nice heavily scaled mirrors reported. Our oldest known Society Carp made yet another appearance, this time being caught by **Jason Lee**. Venue bailiff, Kristy continues to catch well in between his work hours on the lake. Some nice pike have also been caught on the Pit.

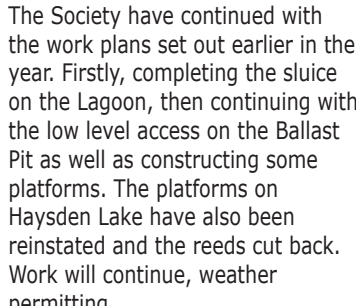
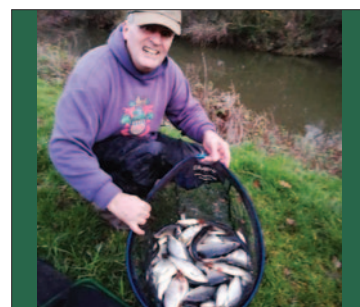
Barden Lake Still the odd big carp being caught and 2 x 20lb+ pike have also been reported. **Pete Groombridge** has continued his fine form by catching 5 x pike to 15lb 13oz. A few big roach are still showing amongst the shoals of smaller fish. Two double figure bream also reported.

Haysden Lake Gin clear water conditions have made fishing difficult of late but again, **Pete Groombridge** proved that there was some good sport to be had with around 8lb 8oz of roach.

New Lagoon Still fish being caught but it has slowed a little. The odd big tench, large bream, some good silvers and a few carp being reported. **Mark Girling Adi** and his family had a pleasant day and **Alex Stokes** caught a lovely fully scaled mirror.

Pippins Farm Some quality roach to 1lb 7oz being reported, the best bait being sweetcorn.

River Medway **Colin Fowler** and **Ray Berry** have had some great roach fishing on the Medway recently with bags to 20lb+. **Roger Trask** had a nice surprise when he landed a lovely looking mirror weighing 22lb 10oz using double red maggot. New member, **Mark Roe**, has been trying several of our waters and had some good sport at Hartlake catching several species. The river pike fishing has been good as the river fined down, especially if you can find the where the roach are. **Jason Craven** had a cracking fish of 21lb on a large deadbait. Several other reports of fish to mid double figures.



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The Society have continued with the work plans set out earlier in the year. Firstly, completing the sluice on the Lagoon, then continuing with the low level access on the Ballast Pit as well as constructing some platforms. The platforms on Haysden Lake have also been reinstated and the reeds cut back. Work will continue, weather permitting.

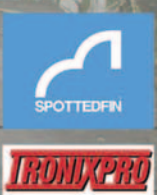


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Greenacres Farm Fishery Biddenden, Kent

Speci 1 Fish coming out to anglers using solid PVA bags casting to showing fish or a lightly baited area using wafers or pop ups as hook baits.

Speci 2 Now that the cold weather has moved in the cat fishing is slowing up with the odd fish showing in the nights. However, the carp are showing to lightly baited areas using fluoro pop ups with yellow working the best. This lake has also seen a number of bream showing from 4lb up to 6lb being taken on the feeder. There is also a good head of pike to be had on lures or dead baits.

Heron Fishes all year round as a mixed coarse lake and a very good runs water for carp, as **Shane** and his Dad **Pete** found out.

Kingfisher This is a well stocked match lake and great fun with a guarantee of catching during the winter, brilliant for families or anyone wanting to teach their kids how to fish.

Bluebell A little tench pond tucked out of the way, this pond is still showing a good number of tench being caught on float or feeder tactics using worm, maggot, or sweetcorn on the hook.



Oscar on Spec 1



Ryan Smith on Spec 1



Shane and Dad Pete

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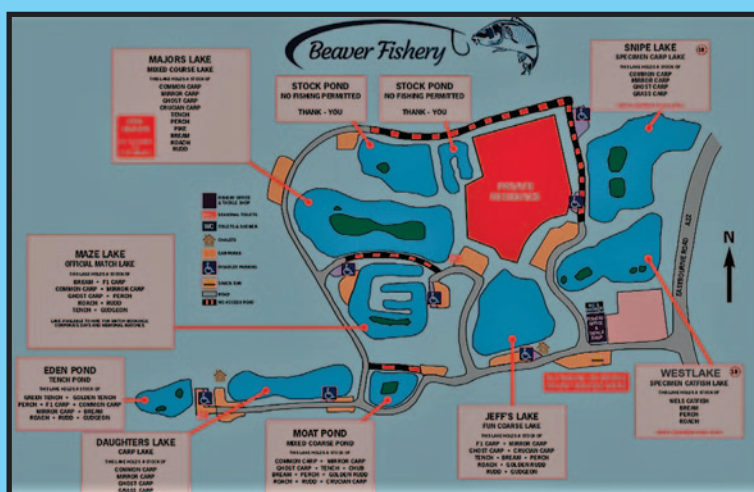


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Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

Well, usually we write up a brief article about what has been happening on the fishery over the last year, but, as you are all aware this year has been like no other. When the first Covid-19 'lockdown' struck we, like the majority of the country, had to shut down. As Ben is local to the fishery, he was in every day whilst I was in 'lockdown' as he was allowed to attend the fishery to ensure the fish were all fed and looked after whilst no anglers' bait was going in. When we were given the green light to go ahead and open the fishery again both Ben and I were amazed at the amount of people chomping at the bit to go fishing. The sheer amount of angling pressure and the amount of bait that went in was unprecedented, along with the heat of the summer months made the fishing somewhat harder than it usually is. It has been a pleasure to have met lots of anglers new to the fishery, but, also, sadly we have come across a few people new to us who were a little 'taxing' on our patience too. As our regulars are aware, Ben and I are extremely proud of the fishery and when someone is caught breaking any of our rules they are always removed from the fishery.

Even with the crazy year we have all just experienced, Ben and I, with the backing of the fishery owners, are very pleased to be able to continue our extensive stocking programme on the fishery. First, we introduced 30 new C4 mirror carp into Majors Lake from Chilston Fish Farm. Then, also from Chilston Fish Farm we introduced 5 C4's into Daughters Lake. We also introduced 5 more stunning C5 mirror carp into Snipe Lake from our friends at V.S Fisheries. Our next port of call was Jeff's Lake where we introduced around 1,000 F1's from Babylon Fish Farm which included some stunning looking ghost carp F1's. Then we took delivery of 6 more beautiful C4's again from V.S Fisheries and also introduced them in to Daughters Lake. We are sure that you will agree that these fish will make a great addition to the lakes that they were introduced into. Pictures of all of our stockings are available to view on our website at beaverfarmfishery.co.uk and our Facebook page.

As of writing this we are still in what the government call a 'soft lockdown' which has seen us dealing with the usual running of the fishery in a different way with social distancing measures in place as per the government's guidelines. As usual at this time of year, Ben and I undertake a large amount of maintenance work on and around the fishery and at the time of writing this, we have cut back all the marginal growth and thinned out the reeds between swims, repaired and wood chipped swims where needed, cut back a lot of over-hanging tree branches above and around where anglers cast and removed any snags that were in the water, removed all over hanging brambles and any snags on and around the islands and dealt with repairing some pot holes around the fishery. This work will be done on every lake and pond on the complex to ensure that you all have a comfortable time when visiting us.

We started this winter work in November and we plan to complete all maintenance work on the fishery before March. Please note that all lakes are open whilst we carry out the winter maintenance.

Snipe Lake has produced carp to low 30's.

Westlake has been fishing well for the catfish to low 50's.

Moat Pond has seen some nice fish banked and

Daughters Lake has produced some little beauties while pike have been caught to 18-12 on **Majors Lake**.

We both hope you all have a safe and healthy Christmas and New Year, look after each other and Ben and I look forward to seeing you all on the banks very soon.



Chris Edland 31/03 PB - Snipe



Chris Tidd 23lbs - Snipe Lake



Daughters Lake



Emma Martin 18/12 PB - Majors Lake



Harrison Mestriner - Moat Pond



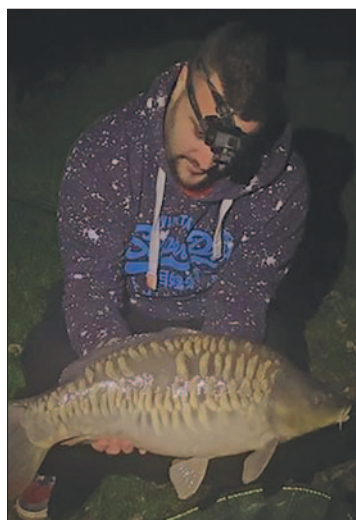
Jordan Davies - 19/05



Luke Auger 27lbs - Snipe Lake



New stockie in Daughters Lake



Mark Goyder - Daughters



Peter Mew 17/11 - Snipe Lake



Scott Harvey 19/08 - Snipe Lake



WELCOME TO ARUN ANGLING CENTRE

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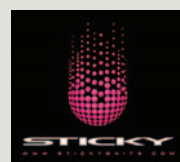
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Wylands International AC Battle, East Sussex

BOOKING VIA PHONE ON 01424 893394 - Wylands has had to put provisions in place to ensure the safety of the staff and anglers on site. Therefore, we are limiting the amount of anglers on our complex at any one time and ask all anglers to pre-book in advance via phone on the above number. We are working on an online booking system that should become active in the near future. We have had to remove all bins from our site and ask anglers to take rubbish home. Our winter season tickets are now available that run from the 1st November to the 31st March 2021. Please call the office for more information. **Don't forget our Xmas Jumper match on Sunday 20th December!**

Field Lake Very popular with new and young anglers catching multiple carp on a variety of methods.

Snake Lake Our river styled lake is very popular with match anglers catching a good stamp of carp.

House Lake has been a very busy lake this month with it being close to all amenities. The lake itself has fished very well with carp being caught on all types of methods and bait.



Middle Lake

Middle Lake A popular lake with the anglers and has produced some stunning carp this month.

Kell Lake has been tricky for some over the last month but there have been a few lucky anglers being graced with its prize possessions of high 20lb.

Old Spec fished very well with reports of carp being caught up into the 20lb.

New Spec A very popular lake with the anglers as the lake holds a big head of 20lb plus carp and has produced some stunning carp over the last month.

Maisies Lake With the change in the weather the cats seem to have slowed, the carp are on the feed in Maisies with reports of high 20lb and a 36lb common being landed.



Old Spec

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Letter to the Editor

Robin Piper sent in a letter to tell us about a recent trip he had to Mousehole Lakes near Paddock Wood and Claygate Lakes near Marden:

Dear Barry, For a change of venue and going by your reports, I made a trip to the match lake at Mousehole Lakes. The weather had made a better start so on arrival and seeing many cars, I made for one of the clear swims. With little wind blowing, I put out a waggler float fishing just off the bottom halfway across to the island with sweetcorn on the hook and loose fed little balls of bread. After just fifteen minutes my float sank out of sight and line was pulling out towards the island. I tightened up and held the rod low to stop the fish snagging in any roots and after a short but spirited fight I landed a nice tench of 3lbs 12ozs, which made a nice change from carp, and was my best tench of the year. It made me smile and I hoped that there may be more of them in the swim. However, I began to catch roach around 6/8 ozs before my swim 'died' and nothing else was forthcoming for the rest of the day. Better luck next time!

On another day, I visited Claygate Lakes near Marden and had some nice fish caught on the bottom on a size 12 barbless hook using my trusty old 10' ledger rod, ½ oz Stonze weight on a running rig and 6lbs bs Maxima line. Among the many fish caught averaging 4/5 lbs, the best fish of the day was an 8lbs 4ozs mirror carp. As the day progressed, the fish appeared to move up in the water and I began to catch them off the top on bread! I enjoyed the fishing and had a good day.

After speaking to you on the phone recently, I looked at the November magazine on your website for the first time, as no paper copies were available, and was very impressed with the layout!

Regards, Robin Piper



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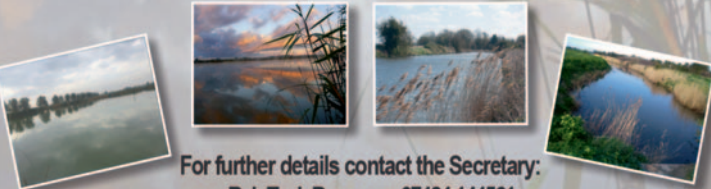
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A session at Wooda Lakes

Unfortunately, it has been very much a case of all work and little play of late with the fishing trade being extremely busy for us with a huge upsurge in participation.

The Covid crisis has been a terrible time but the angling industry has benefited with people either going fishing more, taking up fishing for the first time or re-engaging with angling after many years of not participating. But I have still managed to sneak off for a day session locally at a venue I had never fished before called Wooda Lakes, which is just outside of Holsworthy on the Devon/Cornwall border.

POM'S PEG



Wooda Lakes

the action at some stage by fishing the Stonze System in a similar way but learning off each other throughout the session. Every day is a 'school day' and if one of us is getting more bites we are always happy to share that information and it can certainly make a huge difference. If I am catching on one bait or a particular rig, we would then all fish the same and then we see our overall catch rates improve. Match fishing reinforces this and I do find it strange that some anglers may not realise that this is a key element to water craft – if anglers around you are catching then ask and replicate, it really is common sense and will only improve your catch rate.

Back to my tale, well Gary certainly picked the right swim even when he came out of our draw last! He was at the bottom of the lake whilst I settled into the middle section and Alex was closest to the carp park. Though we all fish the Stonze System with Steamlink rigs we do chop and change our hook baits by varying between pop ups and bottom baits, sizes, flavours, and colours (especially in clear water). If you think about it this is exactly what the successful match angler will do, and you certainly decrease the odds if you do not have different bait options.



Gary with a
nice common

This pretty venue has several lakes that drop through a valley that can be fished on a day only basis and a day was arranged to meet up with fellow Pallatrax Team members Gary and Alex Baker for a day session just before the clocks went back. I've said before, even as I get older, I'm still like a kid waiting for the alarm clock to go off on the morning. That feeling of excitement and anticipation has never left me and just another reason why I embrace our awesome hobby! Kettle on and having packed the van the night before I waited for Gary and Alex to turn up and off we set in convoy to arrive just as dawn was breaking – surely the best time of the day for us anglers?

Gary is one of my closest fishing buddies and I have also fished with his son on several occasions and we work well as a team on the day. This is an effective and rewarding way to fish as we all tend to get into

With winter beckoning you expect colder weather but that was far from the case as the sun rose and we were surrounded by hatches, always a good sign for fishery management as these hatches are all water borne and such natural food sources is an indicator of a healthy water. As is the norm it was not long before Gary was into action, he does have a habit of catching a lot of fish wherever he goes and, honestly, Alex and I were only slightly jealous! After a decent battle Gary slid his net under the first carp of the day and that is pretty much how things went. Though we all caught some cracking looking carp up to mid doubles, to the one fish we would catch Gary caught two!

My moment of frustration! I have caught carp off the surface every month of the calendar year and will always have a bag of mixers to hand. Never think you cannot take them off the top even in the coldest conditions as, I promise you, the main

reason they are not caught during the winter months is most do not think to use this tactic. Well this session was no different as I kept a few mixers trickling in and an eye on the water for any tell-tale swirls. As early evening came along so did a few surface-feeding carp but also one of the worst sights when working this tactic: the hungry ducks! I love nature but they do wreak havoc, however, I persevered to eventually get a huge take and I was into what seemed to be a very heavy and feisty fish. The lake has carp to low twenties and had I managed to catch one of the biggest residents,? Well, I will never know! I hate losing fish and that is exactly what happened, one minute it was there the next gone – but that is fishing and why we thirst for more!



Alex with a pretty mirror

Pom with a
mid-double common

Hooked

Well that would be the carp rods put away for a while but what a way to end my carp fishing exploits of 2020. Fishing with top people, at a nice venue, on a lovely warm Autumn day and catching over 20 carp between us – more great fishing memories created.

Till next time stay safe and catch more and if you have any questions please always feel free to contact me.

Simon 'Pom' Pomeroy
E-mail: simon@pallatrax.co.uk



Magazine subscription service

I am delighted that the paper copy of the magazine is back! The cost of this service has, I'm afraid, had to increase and the new price is £25 for twelve months subscription. The increase is due to me not having access to the bulk postal rates as before and carrying out all the packing myself. However, the cost of each month's magazine is a little over £2 delivered to your door, so I feel it represents great value for money. Previously, the printers packed and dispatched the subscribers' magazines at source, but due to changes in the production procedure, I have taken over this task! Payment can only be made by BACS (bank transfer) or by cheque. I am happy to provide the magazine's bank details for payment on receipt of the subscription application below.

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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 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!**



Melissa Fordham 44lbs 10ozs - Elphicks



Mick Murray 46lbs 12ozs - Elphicks



Keith West 20lbs 1oz - Wylands



Kevin Westbrook 19lbs 5ozs - Wylands



Gordon Fellows 28lbs - Lovelace Farm



Kevin Henman



Kev Finch 16lbs - Hartley Lands



Matthew Colegate at Frant Lakes



Matthew Good - 25lbs



Jamie Skates



Becky Bates 15lbs - Club lake



Charlie Marston 43lbs 8ozs - Elphicks



Dave Hurd 26lbs 8ozs - Hawkhurst



Marc Eden 2lbs 8ozs - Local Club water



Mark Day 15lbs - River Stour



Patrick John - 28lbs



Robbie Hollands - 20lbs



Sara Henman



Sy Kitch - 31lbs 8ozs



William Benningfield 16 - 18lbs
Westminster H.K. on a Savage Gear Roach Lure 19/10



Kev Holt 19lbs - Manor Farm



Richard Ford 18lbs
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Andy Humphreys 20lbs - Greenacres



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Hello and welcome to the seasonal edition of Junior Informer!

With Christmas rapidly approaching us, no doubt many young anglers will no doubt have written a wish list already! I do hope that your wishes are granted! Although we are just coming out of another period of restrictions, the schools have remained open this time, unlike the 'lockdown' earlier this year. With the weather now cooler and damper and a whole lot less predictable, the opportunities to go fishing are limited. However, a point worth noting is that, very often, short sessions in the afternoon going in to the evening can be a lot more productive than being on the fishery at opening time in the morning. The fish often have a feeding spell in the last couple of hours of daylight and become less shy. Feed sparingly and watch the water for fish activity and it is often worth scaling down your tackle and fishing lighter. Good old fashioned bread punch on the hook and maggots are the baits to try first! Don't forget to send us your catch photos and pictures of your new fishing tackle that Santa brought you on Christmas Day!



DECEMBER TIP OF THE MONTH from instructor Rob Goble

This must be the year to forget. Coronavirus and lockdown has seemingly, altered our way of life, as we know it; especially in the short term.

I can remember a while ago, when HRH Queen Elizabeth was quoted throughout the media, describing a particular year, as being her 'Annus Horribilis' - Her 'horrible year'. Compared to that statement, this one truly tops it - I'm sure you are all in agreement!

Looking back over this past year, 2020 has had such a huge impact on all of us. Initially, all sport had to stop for a period; we were only allowed to shop, walk the dog for a limited time. There was no travelling - need I go on? For us anglers - worse - fishing also had to stop. Somehow, we simply had to start trying to find other ways to entertain ourselves and tying flies, making rigs all helped. However, thanks to lobbying and hard work behind the scenes, eventually fishing was allowed, but unfortunately we were instructed not to travel far. This was a 'weight off' many a fishers shoulders and an opportunity to get back to some kind of normality; gradually we were seeing a chink of light at the end of the tunnel. For young and old alike - for all we fishers - it was good for the soul and of course our mental health to be back where we belong on the bankside fishing.



But something good did come out of all this and to some extent it was - is - a turning point in our sport, with more and more people picking up a rod again after years of not doing so, but encouragingly, many more actually taking up the sport for the first time. The Environment Agency rod licence sales have increased dramatically, making angling a top sport again. TV programmes such as Mortimer and Whitehouse have also made a huge impact and have been proven to be an excellent example of what angling is really all about. Also, of course, the programme has helped promote our sport to another audience entirely.

The Kent Fishing for Schools team had all their planned sessions cancelled with the schools, but after the lockdown was eased, we did manage a couple of sessions with a school from Tonbridge - the Nexus School - and we also assisted with a mental health group from Maidstone, so the period was salvaged - a little. Then.... you guessed it.... a second lockdown! But with some rules relaxed, fishing was allowed to continue. That was up until the recent announcement of Kent being plunged into the top tier (3) so we are effectively back to square one. Let's just hope that sense prevails and fishing can continue, as it has previously.

With January around the corner, we can only pray that things get better and the rate of infection through the county falls and we can leave behind an awful year and look forward and onwards. Hopefully, we will be allowed to travel - without restrictions - so that I can get back to fish the rivers in my beloved Wales.

But for the game angler all is not lost and fishing for grayling at this time of the year, can be exciting and warm any winters day. Grayling, also known as the lady of the stream is a graceful fish with a large sail-like dorsal fin and silvery grey, edging to lilac, body markings covered with small linear like scales, that do look almost like chain mail. Grayling have a characteristic smell, some say it is like cucumber, but I think more like the herb, thyme: hence the latin name *Thymallus thymallus*

Grayling can be a very obliging fish to catch, but are very sensitive to both angling pressure and pollution and as the water gets cold, they do like to shoal, so catching one usually means you will catch a few more, before the shoal moves on and /or spooks.

As you will see from the illustration, the grayling, similar to roach as opposed rudd, has an under-slung mouth, generally the hallmark of a bottom feeder, but grayling will happily come to the surface to feed even in the coldest of conditions.



The tackle to use is much lighter than your usual reservoir or small water trout rods. I like to use a 10 foot # 3-4 rod for bugging - nymph fishing - with one, two or three weighted designs often referred to as 'tight-lining' - actually it is similar to touch ledgering. I opt for 2 or 3 tungsten bead-headed bugs spaced about 18 inches apart with the heaviest on the point, this is to get down deep. I use very little fly line out of the top ring, relying on just the nylon line with an indicator to show where the bugs are fishing. I then cast up stream and as the line and bugs come back to me, I tend to raise the rod-tip a little when the flies are opposite and when passing in the current below me; you then just follow the line down stream and once at the end of its track, gently flick the 'team' up stream again as before and follow the same procedure. This is called 'high sticking' or 'Czech nymphing'. Of course, you will, at times, get stuck into the bottom or in weed, but this is par for the course, lift into anything you either feel or see as being 'fishy' or a take Snooze you lose! And if the line moves oddly above the water it could be a take, but, it will all become second nature in time; often you will feel the takes - again, as you would when touch ledgering.

However, if I am fishing a dry fly, I prefer using a 9.6 #3-4 weight rod and fly line to match. My tapered leader length is the same as the rod and ends with tip of 3-4 lbs breaking strain and a single dry fly. I then usually cast this upstream to avoid the fly skating (we call it 'drag') and it looks unnatural. But sometimes, I will cast across the stream and with a little mending of the main line (to give me slack), let it swing around and avoid too much skating of the fly. Basically, you want your presentation of the floating fly as natural as possible, but like nymph fishing, once the fly has

reached the end of my target area, I then retrieve some line back and recast as before and if possible, this applies to bugging as well, take a couple of steps, up or down stream depending on the rules and the area that I am fishing.

Living in Kent you are very limited to fishable grayling waters. There is some grayling fishing to be found on the River Teise, I believe that the Teise Anglers and Conservation Society have areas. Also, there is some fishing on the upper Medway above Ashurst and I believe you can obtain information from the Tunbridge Wells Angling Society and they have some weirs and pools. But, these are club or syndicate waters and membership is needed.

That is why I love the freestone rivers of Wales especially the Wye and its tributaries. A good starting point for anyone wanting to fish the area is the excellent <https://www.wyeuskfoundation.org> On their site you will be able access all the information you need for a holiday or short stay. Nearer to home there is good fishing to be found, at a cost, throughout Wessex and into Devon.

The strange thing is, although the grayling is a member of the salmon family, it is classified and has the same close season as coarse fish - 15th March-16th June; whereas the river trout season begins on the 3rd march until 30th September each year in many areas - in the south this tends to be April 1st - but stretches into mid-October. So if you do catch an out-of-season trout when grayling fishing just be mindful and respectful and return the quarry carefully and quickly .

Don't forget you can fish for grayling with a float. Maggots and sweetcorn are both highly effective baits for the lady of the stream. It is important to introduce loose feed of a few maggots or corn out in front of you and then trot your float down the stream, lifting the rod swiftly when the float goes under. You will get a lot of false bites as your bottom tackle hits weed or the bottom, but persevere, it will be worth it.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Until next time: be safe, keep warm, have fun and keep fishing

Bob G.





Fishing for Schools Review of 2020

by Warren White



This year has been a challenging one, but still a positive one.

The planning for our programme of 8 schools and 3 mental health groups starts early in the year, with our fishing courses normally starting in spring. As always, with this amount of groups, there is a lot of work involved with this, booking the fisheries, coaches, schools and mental health groups, and making sure all regulations are in place including risk assessments, photo consent etc .

So to have all these bookings cancelled has been a major blow, just having to cancel the fisheries we use, is not easy, because while fisheries have been open since May, the people we work with, schools and mental health groups, were shut in lockdown, so unable to go fishing. But, it has been testament to the fisheries that we use e.g. Monk lakes and Hadlow College that they were fully understanding of the situation, so thanks to both of them.

So, from March to September all our work was postponed! After the schools' returned from the summer break in early September, I started getting some interest from schools about wanting to go fishing. Rowhill, a school that we have been working with for many years and who we deliver the BTEC Fisheries course, asked after going back to school on the Wednesday, whether we could start the fishing course the next day on the Thursday! Then on the other hand there were schools that were booked in for angling courses in September and October who would have loved to have taken part but were unable to do so because of the school's policy of not allowing their students to leave the school premises for outdoor provision, due to Covid.



Since going back to school in September, we have been working with Rowhill school on a regular basis. Whilst our usual venue Grove Farm Fishery, Hadlow college was shut because of Covid, with the good weather conditions in September, we made the most of visiting some new venues, like Chart Fishery, at Chart Sutton. Throughout this Covid outbreak we have tried to be in an outdoor environment, fishing, rather than staying in an indoor classroom environment, but we know as winter approaches and fishing time gets less, we will need to spend more time indoors to get the paperwork side of the BTEC Fishery course completed.

Rowhill school are a good example of a SEN school that have students that love to get outside and fish. I know that the work we do on the BTEC Fisheries course, especially in these times, is really beneficial for their well-being and helps in their educational future.



Another school that was really keen to carry on Fishing was Nexus school, Tonbridge. Last winter, a group of students from the school all passed the Aims Award Fishing qualification, which was a course that ran over 10 weeks and combined written work with practical fishing. This was after the year before of coming on to the F4S Angling Programme where they gained a real interest in fishing. At the time of passing the Aims qualification, as a reward we were looking at taking the boys fishing, but at that time because of the Covid lockdown it wasn't possible. The school then booked their course for October, which worked out really well as we were once again able to fish, with restrictions being lifted.

You could see by the students' body language

that they were keen to get outdoors and fish, I cannot speak more highly of the students' improvement and hard work over the last few years after coming onto the F4S Programme.

One branch of our Fishing Coaching work that we do, that is rewarding to the coaches and something the participants love to do, is our mental health and disability groups. This year our summer programme with our three groups Charlton Athletic, Choice Support, and the Trevor Gibbens NHS Trust, all had to be cancelled because of Covid, which was understandable. But, as restrictions got lifted at the end of the summer, we arranged with Trevor Gibbens to take a group fishing again, and what a great time they had. Having worked with mental health groups for 12 years, I cannot emphasis how important fishing is to people with mental health conditions, it gets them outdoors in a healthy environment, doing something that they enjoy which builds confidence and a well-being in their lives. We will all be hoping that come next spring we will once again be able to commence our vital work with our mental health groups again.

Throughout the lockdown we have tried to keep in touch with our schools and mental health groups and although in lockdown we haven't been able to fish, we have tried to be there for them. We have guided our groups to the F4S website where there is a variety of learning resources which includes videos, fishing quizzes, work sheets etc. Also we were able to work with some of our students on a Visual Fishing course on Facetime. In this case it was to try and get some of our students up the ladder of the Angling Trust Cast Awards, This worked really well for students that were bored at home in a lockdown situation, helping to give them something to do. One student who was a keen Boy Scout managed to get up to Level 2 Cast Award, which was needed to get his Scouts Anglers badge, which meant a lot to him. So although this year has not been easy, we are trying to carry on as best as we can. I believe that once we get this winter over, there is light at the end of the tunnel.



Best wishes to you all for Christmas and a Happy New Year

Warren White Fishing for Schools Coach

Each 'Ready, Steady, Fish' pack contains:

- 400g of shelf life Squabs • 3 x medium swivel Stonze weights of 2 - 2.5 ozs • 3 x Gripz hair rigs (for 14mm baits use size 8 Gripz, 18mm baits use size 6 Gripz) • 500g of Carp Crush groundbait/method mix
- Anti-tangle foam • Boilie stops • Packet of Gammarus shrimp
- Packet of 15 x 10mm pop ups

The fantastic pack is worth over £20! All you have to do to be in with a chance of winning one of the 'Ready, Steady, Fish' packs is to send your Catch Photo to the Freshwater Informer by email or by message on the Facebook page!



Amelia and Stanley Etherington



Finley Farnes - Prairie Lake at Elphicks



Frankie-Ray Joiner - River Tillingham



Jenson Adams - First Pike!



Demi Woodger



Dylan Green 21lbs - Mid Kent Fisheries venue



Noah at Hawkhurst Fish Farm



Joshua King - Framfield Park



Kacie Covill - 28lbs Orchard Place



Liam Harris - River Stour



Nathan Harper - 14lbs Sandwich Lakes



Callum Skates



Rhyad Harris - LSP Lakes



Shane Hills & Dad at Greenacres Farm Fishery



Florence and Arthur Douse



George at the Wilderness, Dormansland

Fishing for schools - DECEMBER UPDATE



Fishing and educating through a pandemic

from *Charles* JARDINE

Firstly, let me wish you the Happiest of Christmases possible and just the most optimistic of New Years....!

I will not 'bind-on' about the Pandemic and the news that Kent has been plunged into a 'cross-the-board' tier 3 (as I type...who knows what, or which area the current government will come up with next... I am just getting so confused by the whole thing... or is that 'bemused'). This news was just so dispiriting. I love Kent...I still need to visit....

I am at utter loss and seemingly others too - why has such a broad sweep been made? Am I missing something? I can only hope that sense prevails for my native county and that you manage to get out and fish in the salt or freshwater over what is and I hope, remains - the joyful holiday period.

I had a lengthy chat with Barry - Editor who must be obeyed - and was so encouraged to hear that sea fish - albeit slightly different species - are once again returning to the South East seashores...I must admit I never thought I would EVER hear the words in a sentence: 'people are fed up with catching bass...'; whoever you are, send some to me.... Dying to be fed up catching those silver sea wolves!

Anyway, I did think that it would be nice to offer a directors review of the year that has been, tinged with the optimism of the year to come.... So here we go... My huge thanks - and I mean it - for all the support that you have offered Fishing for Schools, Me, Warren, Bob, Kevin, Ian and the entire South East team... **All of you are amazing!**

Here we go.....

I confess, that never, not in a million years or words, thought I would write the subheading above. Fishing for Schools has always been about actively getting out and taking angling and our own brand of education to young people regardless. I am pleased to say, we are still doing so. With so many curtailments on our social and working lives being continually impacted upon it is wonderful and a real boost and tonic, to know that we continue.

Of course it is tough - trying to deal with all the layers of necessary extra officialdom and safety was never going to be easy - and neither is it now. But if you believe in what you do - and we emphatically do - these are just small hurdles and a necessary part of what one needs to do to continue our vital operation; not purely from an educational standpoint but also the vital aspect of wellbeing. Fishing mends and flows one's time to recalibrate like few other pastimes. The young need this, too.



It would be wrong to suggest our initiative continues as before. It hasn't; it has been essential to adapt. But, as ever, F4S is finding new and innovative ways to maintain our acclaimed angling programmes. We continue to develop our 'online' teaching capacity. One that reaches through the computer and brings fishing and our unique links with education into the classroom. We continue to develop our own 'stand-alone' bona fide F4S qualification which links to the national curriculum. We are well on the way to finalising our introduction to the sport of angling through a simplified entry stepped qualification.

We have extended our reach of the programme to encompass more, aquatic life, the geography of the surrounding lakes, rivers and ponds and their collective conservation. We have an exciting programme being created within the Angling industry which, we hope, will allow for a greater participation, for not just young people, but the entire family.

And if that were not enough we continue with our core business of delivering in the great British countryside to small groups of young people - under the strictest national guidelines, of course. But to be able to function, bring young people precisely what many crave: fresh air, companionship and fun, a challenge... catching the odd fish and importantly, a wee bit of

education, is as thrilling for us, as it is for our students. Of course we are not as fully operational as we would like, but we are a lot more active than we could have ever dared dream about back in April and May.

Primarily, this is down to some key elements:

- A coaching team which remains as committed now, as ever before. Not only have the Fishing for Schools coaches shown resilience, but brought to the fore, innovative ideas which we have unhesitatingly put in place. We truly have the best team in the business.
- A dedicated team of management who have steered a course through a fast changing, awkward, landscape in bringing social media expertise and a new website to fruition and better tell people what we are up to and bring the classroom nearer to us.
- You! Without the support and huge generosity of the many hundreds of you that have supported Charles Jardine's Marathon effort, (we raised over 6K and might yet make 7!) and purchasing the F4S Christmas card and in so many other ways you have allowed us to, in our own way, beat the pandemic 'curse' and stride ever onwards - as we must
- Also, the magnificent support of other trusts and organisations who see the massive worth and usefulness that we bring into young people's lives. The donations we have received recently, are humbling. Thank you.

In a very odd way, we are rather looking forward to 2021. Whatever is thrown at Fishing for Schools we will face it - unbowed.

Charles Jardine Director/founder

River Informer

Welcome to the River Informer!

The Autumn has seen plenty of rain fall across our region and subsequently the levels have risen. The 'refill' was very much needed after the long dry Summer and Spring seasons. This time of year offers some wonderful fishing with the roach shoals and not far behind the apex river predator, the pike, in its splendid winter colours. Fish of all species are resplendent at this time of year and the extra effort in pursuing them is certainly well rewarded. Mark Day continues his fabulous predator season with numerous fish taken during short sessions before going to work and some of his fish feature below. Don't forget to send us your river catch reports to include in this section!

Would your business or club like to be the main sponsor for the River Informer? The amount of sponsorship is open to negotiation so please get in touch for an informal chat about sponsoring this very popular section of the magazine.

Photo courtesy of Steven Dale at www.carpersessentials.co.uk

Becky Bates with a 12lbs pike from the Rother



Lovely pike for Kev!

Kev Finch sent in this report of a lovely Kent pike:



"I was fishing the Royal Military Canal for a winter carp with a 3rd rod out on dead baits and I snared this lovely Esox just before sunset."



First pike for Andrew!

Andrew Osborne was chuffed to catch his first ever pike recently from the River Stour!

"Finally, I have caught my first pike! I have been fishing the Stour for a few sessions now and today I managed 3 from the Stour at Fordwich."



Bankside on the Sussex Ouse *with Colin Etherington*

2020 has been an incredibly strange year to say the least, however, on reflection some beautiful fish were caught. It has been a very turbulent year starting with floods in abundance during the early winter months. These floods were followed by a national 'lockdown' before an incredibly hot summer with most of us enduring a serious heatwave during August. So, in theory, the conditions weren't necessarily ideal for fishing to say the least.

I only managed to get out a couple of times last month and sadly the River Ouse didn't deliver anything for me. I was intending to write a piking article, but I think the pike had different ideas and I managed to blank. I also spent a day on the River Lea in Broxbourne, North London. I was hoping to net a double figure bream from the water, but, on arrival at the venue my heart wasn't in it and I found myself doing a

complete lap of the M25 having only fished a couple of hours. I also chanced my luck carp fishing on the upper reaches of the Ouse and blanked again.

That said, I was keen to get back on the bank perching as I'd caught a PB of 3lb 1oz in September whilst fishing with my son Stanley. I thought that if I kept my rigs simple and fished lobworms with an open ended feeder tight to the dying lily pads, I'd stand a reasonable chance of getting a bite and hopefully netting a fish.

On arriving at the venue controlled by **Haywards Heath and District Angling Society** I was pleased to bump into an old friend who was catching perfect sized live baits on the whip. I decided to fish three rods with two of them on worms and the third with a live gudgeon. I was convinced that the live bait might pick out a better specimen, but I certainly had that wrong.

The morning started very slowly with little happening and although the conditions seemed ideal, I just couldn't get a bite. Well seeing as there was less than four hours of daylight I thought I might as well sit it out and keep trying until dusk. I was re-baiting my rods every hour and just after 2pm one of my rods burst into life and my bobbin rose steadily up to my rod butt. Finally, I was into a fish and after a spirited fight, I slipped a stunning perch into my net.

Often referred to as a 'Sergeant' due to its beautiful stripes, I was delighted when it weighed 2lb 8ozs. It didn't take long to get a second take and once again I was connected to a very lively fish that kited right and left before finally succumbing to my net. This one went 2lb 6oz and secured me a brace of 2lb+ perch.

I was considering packing up and was somewhat disappointed that I'd not had a take on the gudgeon, I sat pondering on what more I could have done when my line tightened and my live gudgeon became somewhat agitated!

I always see this as an encouraging sign as I believe my bait knows it's being squared up to. Two minutes later I was striking a very vicious take and I was in. The result was a plump fat perch that weighed 1lb 8ozs, ruining my theory that a live bait would pick out the bigger fish!

I have noticed that perch are incredibly sensitive to any resistance and will drop a bait as soon as they feel any. The takes seem to come out of nowhere too, giving you no pre-warning which sadly meant that I had missed many a take. I've quite often found my hand hovering over my reel seat if I get any inclination that a take might be imminent, in doing so this has resulted in a couple of more fish being banked.

I'm no beginner when it comes to using lobworms and I appreciate their quality as a bait, if ever I was asked what my all time bait would be, there's only one answer, the lobworm. I've been experimenting recently and have noticed that if I chop up a single worm



I looked forward to a day on the River Lea, but on arriving at the venue my heart wasn't in it and I ended up heading home after just a couple of hours.



My PB at 3lb 1oz, this stunning fish was caught with my son Stanley in September and fuelled the fire for me to return.



Fishing three rods ledgering for perch on a local club lake, be ready for some very aggressive takes and sit on your rods.



The blue check shirt strikes again and a stunning perch of 2lbs 8oz graces my net.



At 2lb 6oz this perch completed a stunning brace of perch - often referred to as the Sergeant due to its vivid stripes.



My theory that the bigger specimens would fall to live baits was ruled out when this perch of 1lb 8oz took my live gudgeon.

and put it into my feeder then the extra attraction does deliver more bites. Consequently, the old worms from the previous cast are cut up and put into the new cast's feeder. It's almost like I'm rotating them and using them for a second time and recycling them. I'm convinced the water I'm targeting is good for delivering a 4lb specimen. I hope it comes as no surprise that I'm going to put some more hours in targeting them. Christmas is always a good time to reflect over the year. Albeit, I totally blew out on the river scene during November, I did however catch my fair share throughout the year and probably my most memorable river fish of the year has to be a barbel. It was a lean, mean fighting machine, this fish literally ran me ragged and also was the prettiest fish I've ever caught. Big barbel can be caught on club tickets and I urge all readers to consider supporting their local club and consider a year's fishing with a single low monetary outlay.



I'd classify this as my fish of the year, it fought like no other fish I'd caught from a river and wow wasn't she stunning too!



The bites can be very quick and its essential to connect with the fish before it feels any resistance and drops the bait.

I'd like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and hopefully a more positive 2021.
Take care, stay safe and tight lines,

Colin Etherington

Mark is on fire this season!

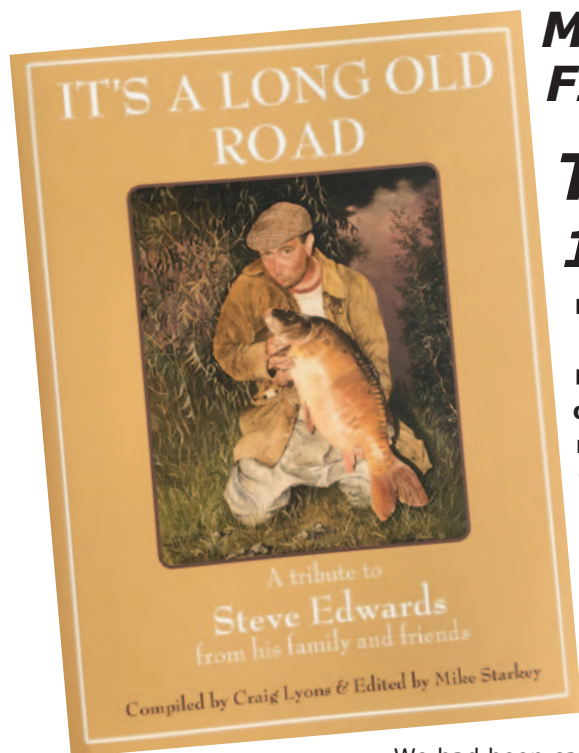
Mark Day's opening catches so far this 'pike season' have been nothing short of amazing. He has mostly fished short sessions on the Stour and has so far caught 41 pike, but he says that the big ones are eluding him, at the moment!

"My pike season is going even better than expected on the river Stour. I had 3 out this morning plus one last week which now puts my total for the season so far to 41! Hopefully the big girls are not far away!" Regards, Mark.

Here is a small selection of catch photos that Mark has sent in to us:



The Golden Years of Coarse Fishing by Bob Rolph



MY MEMORIES OF A MASTER CARP FISHERMAN - PART TWO

The Great Steve Edwards 1950-2010

It was late August 1965 on the banks of Loch Ness right beneath the imposing ruins of Urquhart Castle, where Steve Edwards, Jim Gibbinson and myself were eel fishing on an expedition organised by the National Anguilla Club. It was pitch dark and the rods were set with worm, mussels or dead baits of small brown trout from the Caledonian Canal. We were all too engrossed in our fishing to notice under the rising moon that a bow wave was moving towards us at breakneck speed. We all knew about the legends here, but never expected to witness what was to happen next! My pike rod with dead bait attached suddenly took off and was a job to stop as I grabbed the handle and bent into a massive fish. It stripped line, 15 lbs maxima, off my reel and I couldn't hold it. Suddenly all went solid, and after losing 75 yards of line, I started to gain a bit.

We had been catching eels all night, but only up to about 3 lbs, and dawn was breaking at about 6am on this unlikely venue. I could do nothing with this fish as it obviously had bedded itself in an underwater ledge 50 yards out from the rocky beach we were fishing from. I had it on for over an hour, but just could do nothing with it, it would not shift. The bait came back eventually all chewed and torn, and the thin wire trace was badly scored. We were just kids of 16, 20 and 24, very inexperienced and green in dealing with such an event. We were really all just embryonic carp fishermen with a lifetime of carp catches ahead of us, or at least two of them were! Jim and Steve got on like a house on fire, talking carp all night in between the occasional interruption from a suicidal eel. It was here that a great friendship began which was to span many decades on the carp lakes of Kent in the years to come. I never did know what took my bait that night, but you can read all about it in an old 'Fishing' magazine No.149 dated March 1966, the first month after it went monthly with the black cover.



Loch Ness clan awaiting breakfast!

Loch Ness again hit the headlines in the national newspapers in 1975 when the Loch Ness Phenomena Investigation Bureau published the results of their expedition there in 1972 when the eminent naturalist Sir Peter Scott released a photograph purporting to show a flipper on a beast filmed underwater, off not surprisingly Urquhart Castle! The papers and TV were full of it at the time, and I remember it well, as I was there at the very spot 10 years earlier. This beast was named 'Nessiteras Rhombopteryx', by Sir Peter, and I at last thought I knew what I had hooked all those years before!!! Joke! However it was later revealed that this name was in fact an anagram of "Monster Hoax by Sir Peter S". No explanation was ever given for why such an eminent person would have hoodwinked us all in this way, but he died soon afterwards and so did the story!

Anyway back to Steve Edwards. So we all seven regrouped at the campsite the next morning and discussed our night's fishing. We had all caught eels, many of them, but my encounter caused the most amusement, and needless to say the word 'monster' cropped up several times! Steve got on like a house on fire with Jim and forged a long friendship there that they pursued at carp lakes all over Kent in later years. On his return from Scotland, Steve started carp fishing in earnest at waters like Horton Kirby, Brooklands at Dartford, Bysingwood Lakes at Faversham, Keston and the extensive Snodland series of recently dug gravel pits, with the likes of Jim, Keith Dickens, Dave Rudd, Fred Wilton, Grahame Igglesden and members of the Dartford crowd, including Bob Morris and Robin Monday etc. He began to get noticed in the carp fishing world in Kent with his catches of quality carp from all these venues.

In 1971 after just having had telephone contact with him since Loch Ness, I got the famous call to go to Keston to weigh and photograph a huge mirror carp that he had just landed. This Leney fish, a fine mirror of 25 lbs, was obviously part of a stocking in the 1950s when several such carp were released into waters all over Kent and southern England. I even put fingerlings in during 1969, fry from Redmire which had outgrown my garden pond. The following year, I also got a call to go and photograph a 22 lbs carp that Steve had caught from the Rookery Lake further down the River Ravensbourne Valley when he was fishing with Kerry Payton. He had lots of good carp from this lake, along with many specimens from Sutton and Darenth lakes, when he was fishing with Ken Rowley, Chris Haswell and Fred Wilton.



Steve with 22lbs mirror from the Rookery



Steve returning his 22lbs fish at the Rookery

I was never a very successful specialist carp angler, preferring to spread my interests too widely, but I kept in touch with Steve intermittently over the following 20 years . After my many years of trout fishing on Bewl Water during the 70s, 80s and 90s, I dropped out of all fishing for a while until my return from Australia in 2015, when I was stunned to learn of his untimely death a few years earlier. I regrettably never maintained my long association with him which started when I was 17 and he was only 13, probably my very first angling pal when we fished together at Keston all those years ago.

The wonderful tribute book published in 2012 about his fishing life called "It's a Long Old Road" was a fitting publication to a truly great carp angler and bloke, and I was so sorry to have been totally unaware of his demise at the time of its creation. I was abroad at the time and out of contact with all fishermen for some while. I have, however, a mint copy of the book, signed by all the contributors, and I often scan through it to remember the great times we had together fishing the carp lakes of Kent and the eel waters of Scotland! Steve's son Warren, who I never met in all the years I knew him, and his two grandchildren Zac and Jake, now continue with his carp fishing theme, and are probably catching more and better carp than Grandad ever did! Steve would have been so proud of them. Jim Gibbinson was working on his classic work "Carp" at the time when we were all fishing together in 1967 at the Dartford waters, and I feel sure that Steve would have had some input into its creation. The carp of Horton Kirby can certainly vouch for that!

Steve diversified with tench and barbel in later years and fished the Kennet at Sulhampstead and Theale, where his great expertise resulted in numerous barbel to 13 lbs I believe. Tench too fell to his rods at Johnson's Lakes at Snodland where he once had 3 over 8 lbs in one sitting, fishing I believe with Jim. Big trout, pike and perch also featured heavily In his later years when he had developed into a great all round angler. That was the young kid I first met and mentored nearly 60 years ago now on the hallowed gravel banks of Caesars Pool! I have been corresponding recently with Steve's son Warren, and we intend to meet up soon as I have many photos to give to him that he may not have seen. He tells me of the carp and catfish they are catching at local Kent waters and I can't wait to join them for a short days fishing. I will learn so much on how they fish today, a far cry from the days of old when I just used worms, bread or mussels for my very limited catches. It's gone full circle now in 55 years, I first showed Steve how to fish and now his son and grandsons may well teach me a thing or two about carp fishing in the 21st century, such changes that I as a veteran, now have very limited knowledge of!

Happy Days! Bob Rolph

Paul Baddeley of Absolute Tackle at Herne Common had himself a nice pike from the Stour



Big zander for Paul!



We don't get many zander catch reports so I was delighted when



Paul Kucaj sent in this report just before Christmas. This fine lure caught specimen has made Paul determined to catch one even bigger!

Medway Man

Bob Morris

At the end of this extremely challenging year for us all, we can at last see a bit of light at the end of the 'Corona' tunnel. In spite of the good news regarding the development of several vaccines however, it is looking increasingly likely that Covid 19 restrictions of one sort or another are probably going to last into 2021 - which may affect all of our plans piscatorial or otherwise.



Bob spent most of the summer fishing for Tench, Carp and Bream

Looking back on this strange period of lockdown and release we can see that from an angling point of view, it has been a year of two extremes. Initially, I was being asked how I managed to cope with not being able to fish at all for the spring period? My answer to this was that as it was not really so long ago that the three month closed season was in force nationally and coarse fishing during the spring months was not possible at all and so I was fairly accustomed to the lay off. When the restrictions on angling were lifted in June, I was then asked quite a few times why I had not been seen at some of my usual haunts and the reason for this was that most of them had become far too busy for my liking. The number of people who were off work (often furloughed) with plenty of time to fish had increased out of all proportion to the capacity of certain club waters and they quickly became overcrowded. This was mixed blessings, as it may well have increased the number of new anglers - which has seen a much needed boost for the angling trade, club memberships etc, (the EA have substantially increased their annual licence sales) but some waters have undoubtedly received a heavy clobbering and have been in danger of becoming 'overfished'. For someone like myself, who really values a bit of solitude on the bankside, this situation has meant that I have had to try a few new waters - where a variety of factors conspire to make them less popular. Add this to the fact that I have had

less time available this summer due to domestic issues and it all adds up to my excuse for not doing so much fishing this season.

Having said that, I still did plenty and caught a lot of nice fish and, as usual, very much enjoyed my time out on the bankside amongst all the wildlife. Certain things have stuck in my mind this year including, a couple of cuckoos, heard in our local area, the first in my experience, for a good number of years. Wild animals have certainly become bolder this year, very likely as a result of the spring lockdown and I have had some excellent encounters with foxes and deer in areas where they would normally have been far more reluctant to show themselves. Many good views of birdlife including ravens, buzzards, kites and hobby's sometimes at very close range and I have also been particularly pleased to get some close up sightings of turtle doves during the mid-summer spell - a rare thing these days.

On the fishing front, I spent most of the Summer months pursuing tench, carp and bream mainly with feeder tactics but also on one water with my favourite float and centerpin tactics. Results have been mixed, but have included some good fish and I turned over to river fishing in the autumn with a bit of success on the barbel and chub trail.

Recently, I have, largely, switched my attention to the pike and, as usual, have been playing about with my barbless single hook rigs which are, of course, extremely beneficial to both the pike and angler alike. My normal set-up involves a hair rig which allows a totally barbless hook to be used and also, as it is not having to be potentially obscured by the bait, it does not have to be too large.

I have been using a size 4 or 6 with success, but I did originally start off this experiment a few years ago by using a 1, 1/0 or even a 2/0 when I was hooking the small deadbaits through the tail. In my general fishing activities, I have been using the Pallatrax 'Gripz' hooks - as mentioned in a previous



Animals became bolder - due to the lockdown



Another mid-double on Bob's barbless single hook rig



Autumn Barbel



Recent and decent taken on the methods described



Bob's single hook rigs are kinder on the Pike and the angler!

issue. I am very pleased with the results and to date, I have only lost one fish due to a hook pull and this was in a weedy situation. I particularly like these hooks, as they really are an improvement in design with their spade shaped point and parallel grooves, in place of a barb, also meaning that they are not likely to fall foul of any local club/fisheries' bans or rules on hook type. I have yet to try them for my piking, but will do so now and report on this experiment later.

One of the huge benefits to fishing for pike with single hooks is that it is possible to avoid any of the grisly surgery that is a frequent aspect of piking with traditional 'double treble' pike rigs. This is because 90% of the pike will be hooked right in the corner of the mouth and often, you don't even have to hold the mouth open to remove the hook. I make no apology for continuing to write of my successful use of barbless singles as I am sure that these methods are infinitely safer for both the pike and the angler. If you have ever tried to extract a pike from your landing net when it has managed to roll a barbed treble hook around several times, before you have even tried to unhook it, you will know what I mean. Last year, I went to help an angler who had managed to gut hook a pike of 11lbs on a double treble barbed (snap tackle) rig. After helping him with the surgery and eventually extracting the hooks from the net, I suggested to him that he might try using singles. "Well that's no way to fish for pike!" he replied. I was lost for words! His mate however, was not, and said "I don't know Geoff, maybe what you're doing is no way to fish for pike!"

*Best Fishes for Christmas + Have a
Happy and Virus Free New Year!*
Bob Morris

A new book written by Stewart Allum
A FISH FOR EVERY SEASON



Well-known angling writer and Freshwater Informer contributor Stewart Allum's new title 'A Fish for Every Season' is available in hardback at £29.95 (plus p&p) and limited to just 400 copies, the book is obtainable from The Little Egret Press.

Tel. 07909 090983

Email: sales@thelittleegretpress.co.uk

Documenting Stewart's lifelong passion for chub since when aged twelve, he saw his father catch a sizeable specimen from the Kentish Eden. The book recounts Stewart's travels throughout Britain, accompanied at times by some of our most legendary river fishermen, on a quest which has seen him journey far and wide in search of his favourite species.

Printed on high quality paper, comprising over 300 pages and with a foreword by Matt Hayes, the book is profusely illustrated with colour and black & white photographs plus many of Stewart's own drawings, along with additional artistic contributions from Peter Stone, Keith Linsell, Nigel Witham and Matt Hayes.

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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

www.lintonangling.co.uk



14 miles of River and 7 Lakes containing:
Carp to 52lb 4oz, Tench to 12lb 8oz, Bream to 19lb+,
Barbel to 15lb 2oz, Chub to 5lb+, Perch to 3lb 6oz,
Pike to 31lb 6oz, Crucians to 4lb 6oz and
Grass Carp to 29lb 6oz.

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MEMBERSHIP FEE 2020/21 SEASON

Senior Membership – £70 + £10 Joining fee

Ladies Membership – £30 + £10 Joining fee

OAP 65 years – £35 + £10 Joining fee

Junior Members £10 + NO JOINING FEE

Family Ticket (parents + children u16) – £100 + £10 Joining fee

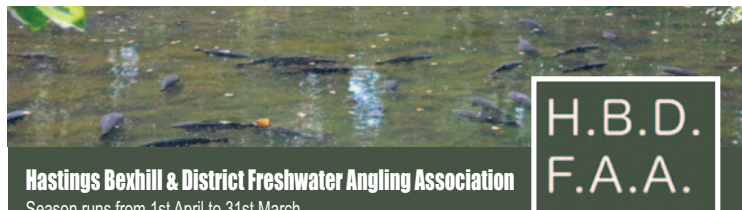
Flood Barrier Night Ticket – £175 + £10 Joining fee

Student 16–18 years – £35 + £10 Joining fee

View the waters on the web
www.tonbridge-angling.co.uk

PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB

Contact Martyn on 07802 248861



Hastings Bexhill & District Freshwater Angling Association

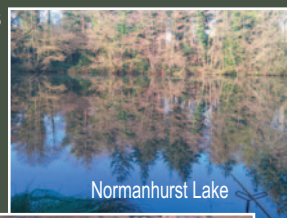
Season runs from 1st April to 31st March.

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.



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Wishing Tree Reservoir



River Rother

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

Calling all clubs and societies!

That time of year is approaching when club memberships begin to fall for renewal!

Why not boost your club's membership with cost effective advertising here in the Freshwater Informer? We can offer a variety of affordable advertising options which can be boosted by exposure on our hugely popular Facebook page, if required, at no extra cost!



Photo courtesy of Michele Aylward - Charnwood Water, Loughborough

We want to help you make your club even more successful and more and more anglers are looking for the opportunity to fish uncrowded waters, both stillwater and rivers. All our contact details are situated at the bottom of the inside front cover. I look forward to chatting with you!



Photo courtesy of Martin Holter - River Wey

TROUT INFORMER

Tenterden Trout Waters Tenterden, Kent

November has been a good month for fishing at Tenterden with many quality rainbows being caught. We have lifted our anglers' spirits, we have all been disappointed with being in Tier 3, by stocking all 3 lakes with rainbows, blues and browns ranging in size from 3lbs to 10lbs for some great winter sport during the festive month. We shall be limiting our numbers to 10 to allow for peace and quiet and social distancing. Please ring/email to book your place over the holidays to avoid disappointment.

Will McClean
8lbs 4ozs



We shall be closing the Fishery on the 24/25/26 December only.

Will McClean caught this 8lbs 4ozs rainbow and managed to land it without a net. Awesome! He registered if for the Junior Trout Masters. Congratulations. Many of our anglers are now enjoying the benefit of our recent stocking and going home with a great bag of fish for the freezer over Christmas. **Mark Baker**, being one of them. Our Shepherds Hut accommodation has proved very positive since we launched it this Summer, both for anglers who wish to stay and fish and for other guests who just welcome a short break away during these difficult times. If this is of interest to you, we are offering 20% off our permit prices if you stay in our Ghillies Hut.



Mark Baker



For more info visit 'Shepherds Hut' on our website with a direct link to Airbnb - we hope to re-open it after 16th December and we are taking bookings after this date. For fishing permit reservations, please call 01580 763201 or email to book. This system is working well for all concerned and we thank you all for your support. If we don't answer please leave your message, name and number and we will get back to you asap. This enables us to monitor how many anglers can safely fish at any one time. The Fishery Lodge will hopefully re-open for tea/coffee with our compliments after the 16 December. We have great facilities with kitchen/dining/sofa, toilet and lakeside balcony where you can relax. See photos in our Gallery. We are not hiring out rods, tackle etc - cork rod handles do not sanitise well and we need to keep everyone safe from the virus. Fishing Tuition has proved popular this year and can be booked direct with Richard Stokes, our Instructor, please email richard@coombe-farm.com if you are interested in learning a new skill in 2021. It is always fun to learn new things in life and you can purchase a lesson as a gift voucher experience for Christmas.

For an up-to-date fishing report please go to our website and click on News/Fishing Report. www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk you will find an Aerial Tour on our Home Page so you can view our picturesque Wealden setting.

Please follow us on Instagram and Facebook and visit our Gallery.

We are one of the Top 50 Stillwater Trout Fisheries in the British Isles 2019 and a Trout Master Water.

We offer Gift Vouchers for that special present this Christmas please call Gaynor on 01580 763201 or email gaynor@coombe-farm.com - we can email/send them to make life easy for you.

We would like to thank all our anglers for their support throughout a very difficult year for everyone. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and look forward to welcoming you to our friendly, family run fishery for some great Winter sport.

Tight Lines & Stay Safe - Gaynor, Richard & Audrey

EVENT:

Charles Jardine's Skill Set Day will be on the 7 March 2021, for further info visit our website under Fishery News to book a place if you are interested.

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We aim to provide an excellent day's sport in beautiful Wealden Countryside.

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Brick Farm Lakes Herstmonceux, East Sussex

Fishing has been very mixed in general recently – one day fish have been taking whatever has been put in the water whereas other days they are being much fussier, although generally a slow retrieve has been working with the usual suspects for this

time of year in the guise of damsels, montana, buzzers and even gold head daddies with fish still being caught at all depths. Many of you will be pleased to hear that a more 'normal' service of complementary tea and coffee for anglers, as well as we will be back in the kitchen with the bacon and sausage baps on a takeaway basis only (provided government restrictions allow). Access to the Lodge will however remain restricted to the log book and fly table only. We are continuing to see plenty of lovely fish being caught – most notable of recent is **Brian Wood** who, just days after a new Brick Farm record was set (since our ownership) smashed that record with a lovely 12lbs rainbow. **Kelvin Hinton** landed a brilliant 8.4lb and **Christopher Markwick** had a lovely 8.5lb rainbow. **Jack Glendinning** had a wonderful day with us when he topped his personal best with a stunning 7.2lb rainbow.



Christopher Markwick 8.5



Jack Glendinning 7.2

Over the festive period, we will be open every day apart from Christmas Day itself. We will be open Boxing Day and New Years Day as normal from 7.30 until dusk (or slightly earlier if all anglers have left). Please do continue to support the small local businesses and remember that we have gift vouchers available in monetary value, ticket sizes and for coaching sessions – please either pop in or call the Lodge on 01323 832615 to purchase.



We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – we look forward to seeing you all in what will hopefully be a brighter 2021.

Tight Lines and festive wishes from all of us at Brick Farm Lakes!

Brick Farm Lakes Trout Fishery

Prices start from £28 for 2 fish
Vouchers, coaching & tackle hire available
Corporate & group bookings welcome
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
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BN27 4RS



Brian Wood 12lb



Kelvin Hinton 8.4

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This exquisite trout fishery nestles in the heart of the South Downs National Park. Duncton Mill provides great sport for anglers of all abilities. The aesthetics and fighting qualities of our fish and the numerous fishing opportunities across our lakes ensure that every visit to Duncton Mill is different and enjoyable. The picturesque surroundings, beautiful lakes with showpiece trout make for a perfect day's fishing or enjoying the country walks while admiring the varied wildlife and enjoying the fresh air. Our lakes, Rosies and Coot are spring fed with gin clear water creating the perfect environment for quality trout. Further lakes should be ready for fishing in early 2021!

You will be warmly welcomed to this unique fishery by Miss Carole Lindsay who took ownership in July 2020.



Email: contact@ductonmillfishery.co.uk

@ductonmillfishery  @ductonmill 



Lure Fishing

Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman

Lure Fishing

BEWL WATER REVISITED



Andy's first double of the autumn



James Gardner with a mid-double



A beautifully marked Bewl double

For the past month I've been fishing for pike locally on the beautiful Bewl Water. I'm not going to lie to you it's not been easy but, strangely enough, I've been enjoying the process of tracking them down immensely. I'm gradually piecing together the puzzle, at first the few pike we caught were jacks, fish up to about 3lb. Having established some of their haunts, it became apparent that the abundance of juvenile baitfish, perch and roach meant we needed to downsize our lures. By keeping a close eye on the shoals of baitfish, noting their whereabouts and their preferred depth, we started to catch pike more frequently, but still these were small fish. We also quickly realised that the pike were not prepared to chase our lures very far from the bottom either! As the water cooled so the baitfish gradually moved towards deeper water. Fortunately, I'm now able to spend more time on the reservoir and so I've followed this migration closely. Sharing boats with my good friends Gary Collins and James Gardner has helped massively, I've also had some really enjoyable days guiding other lure anglers who wish to learn and understand the techniques and tactical thinking that goes into catching these elusive fish. As I often say "if it was easy, everyone would be doing it".

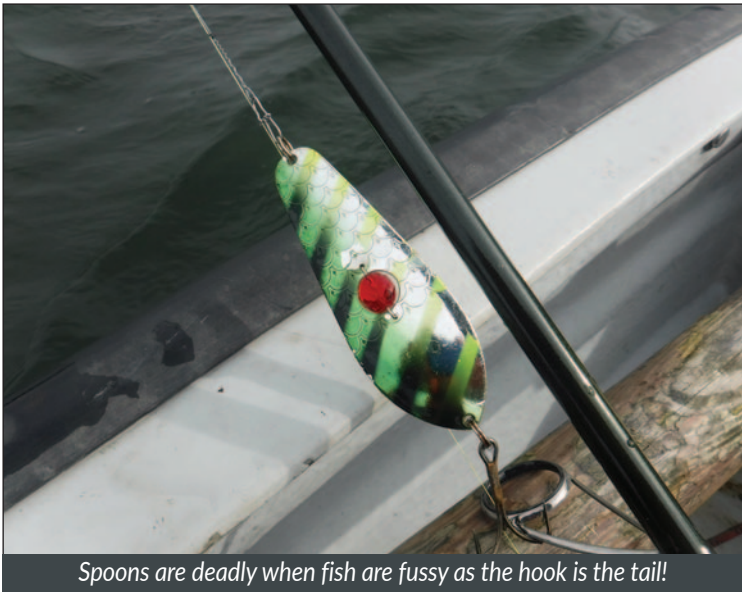
The pike have been so off the feed these last few weeks that we've had to adopt very subtle retrieves to deceive the fish into taking our lures. We have started to bump into the occasional better fish now with doubles starting to feature more regularly. No monsters have graced our nets so far, but, there's always the hope that something special is just around the corner? That's the "mantra" that keeps me and my companions going, the next fish could be the fish of the season or even a "personal best". You see Bewl is that kind of water, it doesn't give its prizes up easily. Without a doubt there are some very large pike in the reservoir, but they are rare beasts which makes it so rewarding when one slips into the net! So far the best fish has tipped the scales at 17lbs and what a stunning looker it was too, a long fish not a typical fatty you'd expect from a trout water. I'd like to think it's only a matter of time before a "special one" graces our net.

With the recent rainfall and storms has come the "lure anglers curse", coloured water. The "run off" from the surrounding fields has seen the water level rise by about a foot which over 770 acres is a lot of water. The pumping hasn't started yet but it can't be too far away now, so conditions don't look promising for the next few weeks. A settled period of cold weather will see the colour drop a little and with "high barometric pressure" the pike should become more active again, fingers crossed.

Method and technique

I mentioned that we'd adapted our lure choice to mirror the prey size, lures around 4 - 5" [10-14cm] are what we're now using. To start with we were drifting over the shoals of baitfish casting and jigging soft plastic shads, spoons and "ice jigs" but as the action slowed so we've now opted to anchoring up. This allows us to fish more slowly through our chosen spots and gives us the option of changing baits and casting in different directions just in case the pike are positioned away from the baitfish. Using the "side imaging" feature on modern echo sounders is a great aid in this situation.

I've had most success recently on spoons, by casting them just a short distance from the boat. Holding the rod tip high at eleven o'clock when I start my slow two turn retrieve the lure lifts gently off bottom before "fluttering" back down again and it swinging towards me. Takes almost always occur "on the drop", very occasionally as you pick the spoon up off the bottom a fish is already on, having pinned it to the bottom! This is very unusual behaviour for pike but not so unusual for perch or zander. I had this experience the other day, as I wound down to lift the spoon off the bottom I thought I'd hooked a snag. As I cursed my luck and lent into it hoping to



Spoons are deadly when fish are fussy as the hook is the tail!

free my spoon it dawned on me that the snag was moving very slowly to my left! My rod by now was hooped over taking on a very healthy curve. My drag should have been purring by now, but, for some reason it wasn't, so I quickly adjusted the "Fighting Drag" lever to slacken the pressure but still the line was not freeing off and I was about to panic when the hook came free! The fish was heavy, never coming off the bottom and at no time did it seem spooked by being hooked as it slowly and methodically swam towards a sunken tree. Was this a Bewl monster pike or a foul hooked fish? We'll never know, but it certainly gave me the feeling that my quest isn't over yet.

To be continued.....!!!!"

Tight lines, Andy Lush



GUIDED LURE & FLY FISHING DAYS
WITH ANDY LUSH

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

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

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

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

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

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



Welcome to Duncton Mill Trout Fishery!

The Trout Informer section of the magazine is delighted to welcome Duncton Mill to its portfolio of the finest trout waters available to fly anglers in the the South East. Here is a sample of some recent catches from Duncton Mill and a reminder that the fishery offers Gift Certificates for that perfect Christmas Gift! Telephone Carole on 07855 822401 for more information.



Sea Informer

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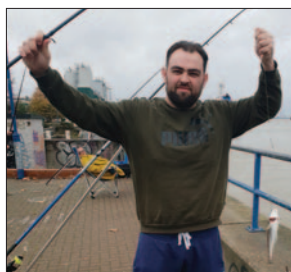
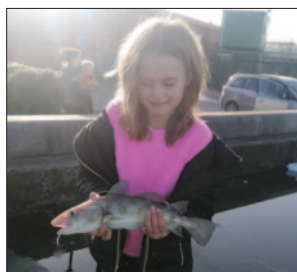
Please support your local tackle shop!

Here we are at the end of another year! The fishing throughout 2020 has been pretty good and all the seasons have provided species for the region's anglers. The thornback rays have been resident almost continually throughout the year and the bass have been caught in good numbers. However, regulations for December mean that all bass have to be returned, although many anglers do this as a matter of course. Generally, there are plenty of fish to be had right around our coastline at present with the dominant species being dogfish and whiting. Although the whiting and dogfish are present in plague proportions, there are some better sized specimens among their numbers, but you have to fight your way through the vast number of fish that are on the bait within seconds of it hitting the bottom. There have been a few codling reported during the last few weeks which is encouraging and December and January may well see some more being caught. The current sea temperature is around 12 - 13 degrees and although not bath water, it is still fairly warm for the time of year.

Thames report courtesy of Wayne May

There has been a whiting bonanza at Greenhithe this year. From the QE2 bridge and Asda, anglers have caught numerous whiting on every tide recently, although still on the small size, they have been providing the angler with continuous activity. Gravesend is also fishing well, with whiting on every cast, expect to lose some tackle if you wish to fish from the wall, the weed is causing a few problems this year, shorter casts are benefiting anglers at this venue. There are some nice size pouting being caught there this year and reports of codling up to 2lb on the Essex side of the Thames. Unfortunately, we cannot report on the charters this month due to the current situation, shore anglers are still reporting thornbacks being landed, along with whiting and the odd codling showing.

NJ Fishing Tackle at Gravesend has a great range of fresh and frozen bait and tackle. Call 01474 353998.



Medway report

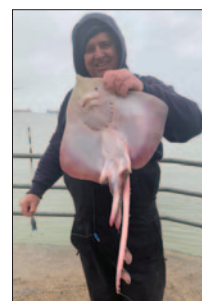
Catches mainly consist of whiting with a sprinkling of bass, flounders and eels. Gillingham pier has produced some rays and a couple of codling. Hopefully the next few weeks will see some more flounders showing in the river.

Medway Tackle Supplies at Twydall can provide all your bait and tackle requirements. Call 01634 475260.

Sheppey report courtesy of Sheppey Angling

The island has been fishing very well! The whiting numbers appear to be tinning out giving other species a chance to get to the bait. The numbers of dabs and flounders being caught has increased and the rays are still about in good numbers. The bass

are still feeding well and codling have been taken from the deeper marks, nothing big 2 - 3 lbs but encouraging! It is that time of year when fresh bait is becoming harder to find so please pre-order your worms in advance to avoid disappointment! Frozen bait is always available along with a selection of tackle.
Please call Sheppey Angling on 01795 661089.



North Kent report

This stretch of coast, often overlooked by anglers, has produced some good fishing with plenty of whiting, dogfish, dabs, bass and rays. Flounders are beginning to show further west towards the Swale estuary. Still some nice bass being caught from Reculver east towards Thanet. **Absolute Tackle at Herne Common stock a great range of fresh and frozen baits and tackle. Call 01227 636724.**

Thanet report courtesy of Fisherman's Corner

Still plenty of fish to be had in daylight coloured water and at night around Thanet. Plenty of whiting and reports of several coalfish





being caught as well as a rogue codling here and there. For anglers scaling down hooks, there's some good sport to be had on light tackle with ragworm working well. We are hopeful as the frosts become more frequent and the whiting will move out then the dabs move in, in better numbers! **For all your bait and tackle call Fisherman's Corner on 01843 582174.**



Deal report

Plenty of fish being caught from Walmer through to Sandwich Bay. Although the pier remains closed, there is plenty of beach to choose from. An advantage of this section of coast is that it is fishable when many other venues are difficult due to a SW blow. Lots of whiting, dogfish, pouting and dabs and the odd codling being caught. **Call Channel Angling at Deal pier entrance for your bait and tackle on 01304 373104.**



Dover report

Shakespeare beach providing plenty of dogfish, whiting, bass, pouting and some dabs. All baits are producing fish. Very few anglers at Samphire Hoe but those who have fished there have had some pollack, wrasse, pouting and bass. **Call Craig at Channel Angling at Snargate Street on 01304 203742 for a great selection of fresh and frozen baits and a huge range of tackle to suit all budgets.**



Hythe & Surrounding areas by Steve Bates

Sandgate, Hythe and through to Dymchurch has been fishing reasonably well. There has been a good number of thornback rays showing along Hythe with the average being around 5-6lbs. Anglers have been catching them at all states of the tide, day and night. The whiting are still in around in full force, however on some tides anglers are not catching as many meaning there is a chance for other species to find your bait. During the day when the water has cleared and been settled, the odd

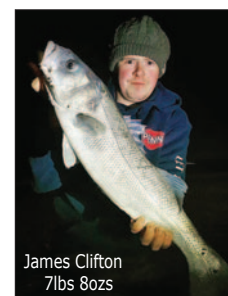


plaice is still showing over HW fishing fresh worm at distance. Some anglers are still jigging for squid in the late evenings from the shore along Sandgate, there is the odd few being caught but not in numbers for this time of the year, yet. This time of the year, you can expect to catch plenty of the usual suspects, whiting, dogfish, dabs & bass. Always worth trying a live bait whiting for the bigger bass and fishing nice oily fish baits for the rays. Baits and rigs doing the business, 2 hook flappers or clipped down rigs baited with fresh worm, tipped with squid or small pieces of sandeel and pulley droppers fished with bluey, whole squid or mackerel will see you catch plenty of fish. **Local tackle shops are Dens Tackle 01303 267053 and Best Buddies 01303 487144.** Please stay alert, keep safe, and stay well. Tight lines, Stevie.

Eastbourne report courtesy of Tony's Tackle shop



This month's fishing has been nothing short of amazing with huge specimens caught from Langney, Pevensey and the Wish Tower area. Steve Kerr kicked the month off with a huge whiting (see pic) of 2 lbs 10ozs, a new Nomads club record and one of the biggest whiting from Langney Point landed for years. The arrival of congers on the shore is unprecedented mainly grabbing peoples' whiting. Gary Banfield and Les Glassard landed one each over 10 lb during the daylight at White Horses. Jason Blackman caught one of 128 cms. There have been a few codling. Chris Kirrage landed one of around 3 lb and has had a successful match run up until lockdown catching congers and dogfish which have been in abundance in the last week. Good size thornback rays have re-appeared, blueys, squid and sandeels being the main diet. Peter Cornwall landed

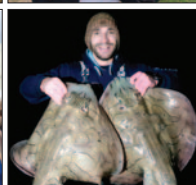


James Clifton
7lbs 8ozs



one of over 10lbs and stacks of whiting and good bass being caught in between gales and a few plaice when the water goes clear. Wesley Sargeant landed one of 2 lbs 5 ozs from Splash Point Dambridge Road area. All matches were cancelled in November so the Tony's Tackle species hunt has given anglers something to keep them occupied when a few good pout whiting have showed up with a few good dabs. Boats have reported good size plaice from the light tower area with bass, conger and dogs from rough ground marks

and a few codling. **Don't forget to order your bait from Tony's Tackle on 01323 731388 or 07821 514853. Our website is www.tonystackleshop**
Tight lines, Tony Kirrage.



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SAM'S FISHING JOURNAL

courtesy of Sam Cox

Controversial Pike Fishing



I have absolutely nothing against carp, they fight hard enough, and nowadays seem to grow to an incredible size, but let's face it, carp just lack the excitement of pike. You just do not hear about the carp that swallowed a duckling, or the carp that attacked the puppy that was paddling in the park lake. Carp are just not worthy of old wives tales. Another thing, have you ever looked into a pike's mouth? A pike has up to 700 very impressive teeth. These are covered in an anti-coagulant, (a substance that stops blood clotting and promotes bleeding) so if the pike's prey gets away the chances are it will bleed to death. The pike can then pick it up at its leisure.

Most of us that target pike will have at some point misplaced a finger, or grazed our hand on their rough gill rakes. It hurts and bleeds for what seems like an age. Whereas the worst thing that a carp's mouth can do is give you a nasty suck.

Now it seems that the UK carp tribes have been talking with the local pike populations and have struck an agreement to only eat the baits of anglers that adorn the latest 'camo' pattern outfits. Trends and fashions have always been an important part of angling, but today things are different, we have social media and the birth of the keyboard warriors. These guys will exploit the smallest chink in ones armour. They will analyse any picture posted or question asked and with just one cutting remark smash to bits any positivity from previous comments.

It is easy for us older anglers to think why bother with social media, but this is 2020 and angling magazines are few and far between nowadays. It is now the norm to get ones information from the internet. The now long departed Angling Magazine had a comments page, a forum for thinking and inquiring angling to exchange ideas and opinions. These would be hand written and posted to the magazine. Anglers would have really thought about what they wrote before posting, a courtesy mostly lost on social media. Our thirst for instant gratification and information is, to my mind, a contribution to the loss of these magazines. I have many of my Dad's old magazines going back to the mid-60s. The information within is told via stories, this allows the reader to really digest and enjoy them. I try and bring a small element of that to my contributions to these pages.

I feel we have lost a little of our solidarity as anglers, it has become far too easy to criticise and judge rather than encourage and share. I get a lot of satisfaction from the exchanges between myself and my angling friends. We have over the past five or six years built a decent relationship that we all benefit from. As thinking anglers, we are always looking at better ways to fish, obviously the main objective is to catch more and bigger fish, but the well being of the fish and the environment they live in are also very important.



Three years ago a friend of mine from Essex, Andy Easy showed an interest in coming pike fishing with me. We made arrangements to meet up at a spot on the river Medway. The fishing was slow, but he caught the only pike of the day, a fish of about six pounds. He enjoyed the day and we agreed to meet up the following weekend, planning to fish two spots in East Sussex. We started the morning on the Royal Military Canal. Andy said he did not feel comfortable using two treble hooks and asked if there was an alternative. I told him that I had a few packs of circle hooks that I had been meaning to try and that he could be my guinea pig. We had a decent day and ended the day on the River Rother where Andy caught his first double figure pike at just over ten pounds. The circle hook had done its job and the fish was very neatly hooked in the scissors.

When using circle hooks the angler must not strike, for many anglers striking is a hard habit to break, however as Andy and I were bought up on uptide and boat casting, it was easy. Simply keep winding until you feel the weight of the fish then firmly pull against it.

Over the past three years we have done lots of experimenting and watching many YouTube

films on circle hooks, we have also caught many pike. In that first year we ended the season on the Royal Military Canal near to where I live. Andy landed two very nice pike of seventeen and three quarter pounds and eighteen and three quarter pounds. We decided to end the season on a high and packed up after that.

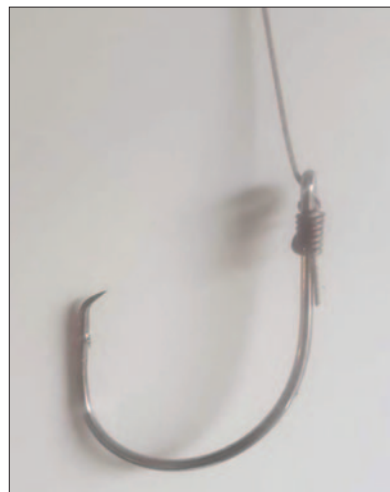
In the time that has followed we have caught some lovely fish, nothing massive but all good fish. I have caught pike to 20.10lb and Andy has had pike to 19.14lb. I have also had some smashing perch to 3.15lb from our boat on the Norfolk Broads, these perch picked up dead roach. All these fish have been very neatly hooked, making them easy to deal with and return safely.

We always crush the barbs on the circle hooks to help penetrate the pikes mouth. By the very design of these hooks barbs are not really needed.

When making the wire traces, I always snell the hook onto the wire so the main hook length is exiting the eye on the inside of the hook. This creates a much better angle for decent hook ups. A knotless knot can also be used, and often does less damage to some types of wire. However, with some wire we have found a small amount of super glue and the use of an inch or so of shrink tube helps prevent the knotless knot from springing apart and also helps with the angle.

The set ups we use are very basic, a simple low resistance running ledger rig with the line clipped back works well. The pike picks up the bait and as it moves away the only resistance is the line being pulled from the clip, the fish can then freely take line from the spool. The other set up is a sliding float rig, again very simple stuff, I prefer not to use any weights when I can get away with it.

We have found better hook ups are achieved by keeping the rod tip low and to keep in a position, if





possible, where the fish is moving away from you. This is due to the angle of the line and the fact that the goal is to get the circle hook into the scissor area of the pike's mouth.

We do at times lose fish, we have found that smaller jack pike having smaller mouths are harder to hook. I think this is due to the lack of space in their smaller mouths for the hook to be pulled into the scissor area. We have scaled down on hook size and bait size, resulting in more jacks being landed, but soon reverted back to our normal 2/0 to 4/0 hook size as we don't really want to catch jack pike.

I have had some very heated, but mostly friendly, debates on several of the pike angling Facebook pages that I follow regarding the use of circle hooks. It seems to be quite a divisive topic. As with all social media, the keyboard warriors and trolls quickly jump on this topic, but there are also a lot of good friendly guys out there who care about their fishing and care about the pike who will enter into a discussion on the subject.

Many anglers will not change what works for them, and I get that, if it isn't broke don't mend it philosophy. However, with that attitude we would still be using hooks made of bone, line made of cat gut and rods made of wood.

One very good angler from the Norfolk Broads makes a good argument in the favour of the traditional two treble rig. He explains that circle hooks can cause scissor damage as they often turn and double hook in that area. Now although this logic makes sense to me, I still feel the pros outweigh the cons.

Modern dead baiting methods often involve really heavy tackle. Three pound test curve rods, big pit reels loaded with heavy duty braided lines often up to 80lb breaking strain! The reasons given by many angler for the use of such equipment is that it gives them the power to pull out of any snag, but bending the treble hooks. Now to my mind 50-80lb breaking strain braided line is excessive in the extreme. Not

all pike anglers are experienced and will use all that power when playing out a pike. Three pound test curve rods coupled with 50-80lb breaking strain line in the wrong hands must put a lot of pressure on the pike's mouth whatever hooks the angler is using. However, I can see how this could be worse when a circle hook is used, as it would be a lot of pressure in one place. Whereas two trebles would spread the load. Due to my bass fishing experience I tend to play my fish very lightly, if the angler pulls hard then the fish generally pulls hard back. So once I hook a pike, I only apply enough pressure to steer it when needed. If in open water I let the fish take line under moderate drag, when it swims to a snag I apply pressure and the fish turns. Now I have not caught any massive pike, I have only caught six pike just over the magic twenty pounds, so maybe one day I maybe outgunned. I do use 2.5 and 3lb test curve rods, but I also still use mono line that has stretch, this helps absorb the lunges of the fish and softens the fight. It also lowers the pressure on the hook, therefore does less damage.

I must stress these are only my findings and thoughts and many long-time pike anglers may disagree.

Anyone who has been targeting pike for any length of time would be lying if they said that they had never deep hooked a pike, I know I have. Although it is very possible to remove both sets of treble hooks from a deep hooked pike, it is a real pain and cannot be good for the fish. We have deep hooked pike using circle hooks and deal with them the same way as an angler would when using treble hooks. I use really long 18 inch plus wire traces. This aids unhooking, I get control of the pike on the unhooking mat with my hand under the fishes chin. This allows me to hold the mouth open, I then hold the swivel at the end of the wire trace between my teeth and apply pressure. The throat of the pike is a long muscular tube that goes to the fish's stomach. The gentle but firm pressure pulls this tube upwards allowing access to the hook. Then with my very long nosed pliers enter the pike's mouth via the gills and simply turn the hook. This all sound very complicated, but it really is not and the hook comes out very easily. The angler does have to bear in mind that the pike will twist and turn and with experience you can tell when this is going to happen. I simply stop what I am doing and control the fish on the mat.

I am not saying that circle hooks are perfect, in the wrong hand any fish is in danger of being damaged. Fish care should be very important to all anglers, but let's be honest, the only way to guarantee the total safety of any fish is for us all to put our rods down and take up golf, but then miles of waterways would not have us caring anglers keeping our eyes on them and I really feel that on balance most anglers do more good than bad.



Richard is still catching the rays!

Richard Smith sent in this report after another successful evening hunting the rays with Steve Bates:



"Myself and best mate Steve Bates fished over low water near the Hythe ranges recently.

It was a slow start, but we managed to catch our target specie with a few rays each.

All fell to bluey wraps at distance."



DUNGENESS Latest catch reports on www.seagullfishingtackle.com

As the year turns who know what's in store for 2021? It can't be any worse than 2020. On a more cheery note, the fishing has been great for this last year. You have to stay positive and a lot of people have started sea fishing over the last year (courtesy of furlough) and we hope they come back for 2021 it should be a great year once we have had our 'jabs'!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

BEACH REPORT

November has been a bit disappointing with only a few codling and the dabs are a bit late, but, with the warm seas it has been brilliant for bass and loads of whiting, dogfish and thornbacks. With the 'lockdowns', lots of shops have been closed making 2020 the toughest year ever for the tackle trade.

Here are a few reports from the beach on my site:



What a cracker...(boom boom)!

I had this report in from Ann Heighton's email...am I surprised? Not at all by a nice cod turning up, but if we had more anglers than fair weather dangles we might see even more! "Hi Tony. Fished at Hythe recently. I think this one got lost! "

Don't get stung!

I saw this posted by my old fishing mate Dave, these jellyfish can pack a punch...you have been warned...with the stormy weather all sorts of things could wash up on the beach, so when you are bait gathering be careful!

"The blue-tinted transparent blob was discovered by David Gower at Dungeness on Romney Marsh, during a beach clean. This Portuguese Man of War ..."



Wrong species...but a nice fish!

I've seen this report from Alex Veel, a great honest report. We can all go cod fishing, but even in the glory days nothing was guaranteed. I still remember the look on your face when I had that 9 1/2 lb cod in that DAA match by the lookout tower!

"Just back from fishing half way between Dungeness & Dengemarsh, 2hrs up & 3hrs down.

As it was always going to be an extremely long shot for a cod, I fished a second rod in close for a bass.



Apart from a missed live bait hit just after high tide, I had to wait until last chuck to find a bass....bit of a fluke really as it picked up the cod bait. Apologies for the poor pic, I was rushing to get her back. It went 5lbs 10ozs and salvaged the night. Usual whiting, out & poor cod....strangely no dogs though."

The sea is still warm!

I saw this post from Dave Harrington:

"Due to a nice break in the weather I decided to give it a little session on my local mark. Got down there by 6:30 with the tide about 2 hours before low & a nice surf running. Baits of choice were bluey & squid with some fresh out black Lug. Well the Whiting were there from the start with a couple of other anglers all catching fish from the get go. Then with about 90 mins to low the rays started to show and remained around until about an hour after low when the whiting and dogfish showed en mass. I managed 2 rays and a shedload of whiting."

BEACH OUTLOOK FOR THE NEW YEAR

I always start each year with enthusiasm. I have said it before, but, I think our local fishing is getting better and better (due to warming seas). So my first target is dabs, followed by the spring plaice and back into the bass and rays.

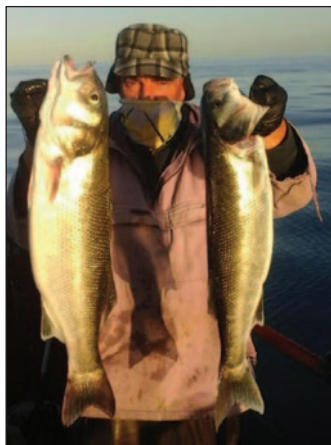
BEST BAITS

Whatever you stick on the hook can work, but look at it from the fish's point of view, they don't expect surprises what they expect is what lives out there in the food chain...worms, crabs, invertebrates, shellfish and fish.

BOAT REPORTS

With the 'lockdowns' it has been difficult to get afloat, but those who have made it have seen some cracking fishing. Opposite is a couple of boat reports coming into my site:





Great day to be afloat

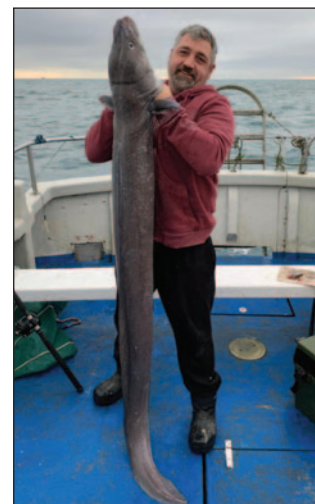
I saw this report in from Jerry Oiller:

"Fairchance fishing Dungeness 01797 363544 Today, What a Beautiful day to be afloat, not a breath of wind and the sea like glass, not a normal November day and the bass were on the feed, the best going just over 8 lb with 4 or 5 bull huss thrown in. Happy Days."

60lb + of pure sport

I had this report in tonight from Anthony out on Peganina from Rye 07989778361...

"Russel made it in to the 60lb club today with his new PB conger - well done mate!!! Also more good news, from next week I can take small parties of up to 5 out again so if you fancy a Christmas party trip on some snakes give us shout!!"



Anthony out 1 on 1

Here is a report just in from Anthony out on Peganina from Rye 07989778361:

"Young Craig with his PB pollack 10lbs 8ozs."

The 'Lone Ranger' strikes again!

I saw this report posted by Jerry Oiller of Fairchance fame 01797 363544 launching from Dungeness:

"One Man and his Rod, Dave 'Foggy' Robinson aboard today, mixed fishing, a nice plump turbot a couple of thornbacks, a bass, garfish, mackerel, tub gurnard, 4 or 5 squid, even a pilchard! Well done Dave. Happy Days."

BOAT OUTLOOK FOR THE NEW YEAR

There has been some brilliant fishing in spite of everything...it can only get better...once we get back to some sort of normality. As I have said before, the warming seas are extending the time and opportunity to catch lots of species. Yes we need the help of the weather (calm seas every weekend) and if we can get out, the fish are there!

BEST BAITS

It depends what you are fishing for, but with warming seas, we can find bait fish all year round.



HASTINGS report courtesy of Hastings Angling Centre

Nothing much to report this month! No matches, clubs are closed and very few boats getting afloat. For the beach anglers there are lots of whiting, a few bass and plaice and congers for the odd local pleasure anglers. With Kent in tier 3, meaning no anglers coming over from there for matches and the clubs still closed, we will not be running any beach matches until restrictions are relaxed. Doesn't look like too much to report for next month either at the moment!

If you have any local catch reports, please let us know at Hastings Angling on 01424 432178. Can only hope next year is better (wouldn't be hard)!



A very Happy Christmas to everyone and all the best for the New Year from Martyn and the team at Hastings Angling Centre.





Wow, how do I start this month's report?

I would like to say fishing has been ok, but the honest answer is due to the government's guidelines I have been grounded with the Lady Ann. There are many different interpretations and that's not to say that the charter boats that are still running are doing anything wrong and good luck to them. I could take one person out, but just can't see the point in that so I am at home and thinking about what could have been!

Let's talk about bait gathering and start with bait pumping at a local mark. The best time I find is to arrive 1 hour before low and head to the edge of the water to see if casts are showing. If not, have a walk about until you find a good concentration of casts. I am not the best, but on a good day I can get 250. I find the key to keeping them is getting all the moisture off the worm before rolling in newspaper, 10 in a roll then freeze straight away. However, I have been told of



another way by Rhys Caleno and Nath Didds of salting down. This is easy but you must still get the moisture out and then place in a bowl of salt. Make sure all the worms are covered then leave overnight. In the morning, shake the salt off and wrap normally. You don't have to freeze them down and I just keep mine in the wife's fridge, thanks Dawn! They will last for months! Rhys has got his own fishing site just have a look on Google for all the different tips for this method of preserving bait. That's the lug sorted, now on to the herrings. I am very lucky that Cannons seafood stall in Ramsgate have their own little commercial boat that I use to go herring drifting in. It usually takes just a few hours out for our nets to fill up with herrings and pick them out. Once I've got the herrings, I like to vacuum pack in bags of 5 then freeze straightaway. They are ideal for the skate bashing through the winter and spring. Unfortunately, the squid I still have to buy even though we are looking in to this (Paul Rolfe pull your finger out)!



I managed to get out today on my own to give the old girl a run and fishing with frozen yellowtails. I had 12 small bass on a mixture of rigs pulley rig, flowing pennel and 3 hook paternoster rig and a live bait rig which I dropped a good fish on. I am still annoyed about that one, but lovely day none the less and keeps the boat safe for December. The local shore fisherman are plagued with whittings. Is this a bad thing? I say not ideal, but it can get the youngsters hooked on fishing with plenty of action and good exercise and binding, especially if you gather your own bait first. It is not all about the monsters we land some times, it's just putting a bend in the rod.

All you good people stay safe and we will get through these hard times to wet a line again and thanks for all the support from new and old customers alike. It really means a lot to me and Dawn (aka 'the boss').

Tight lines from all at Lady Ann of Ramsgate! Jason

If you would like a day afloat with Jason, please contact him on 07966 273650.

OUT AND ABOUT WITH ANDY by Andrew Cook

Arise Sir Richard – King of the Conger!

All I can say is - Richard Steel, take a bow.

Well what a cracking evening we've had, not my best night personally, but overall it's been great. I was planning on trying to avoid the whiting hordes this week so decided on a venture into Sussex and after a quick conversation with Richard we agreed to meet up.

On the mark at 3pm after the direct 'whizz' down the M23 then along the A27 for a short while. It was low tide and the chalk / flint ledges were showing so we could get out on them and fish the flood up. Water was pretty flat, (although built through the evening) and a nice shade of brown.

I'd been watching the weather all week and the estimated window of calm between the south westerlies had arrived exactly as forecast.

Baits went out, one rod each to start as fishing this mark at low tide can be a little tricky. Within minutes Richard had a bite which was instantly identified as a dogfish tugging on his whole squid, first cast, first fish. I had a bite at virtually the same time, but unfortunately I was in a snag which resulted in a lost set of tackle.

The tide started to flood so it was time for our first move up the beach. Richard had his rod over his shoulder, suddenly all hell broke loose with Richard having to stop and turn around as his rod tip was going mad. I ran over to take his tripod off him while he tried to get control of the fish. After five minutes of cranking which

included a few occasions of the fish taking line, I could see a decent conger of 6 - 8lbs in the shallows. Then his snood snapped, but by now the fish was right next to us so I grabbed a video and Richard touched the fish so as far as I'm concerned that counted!

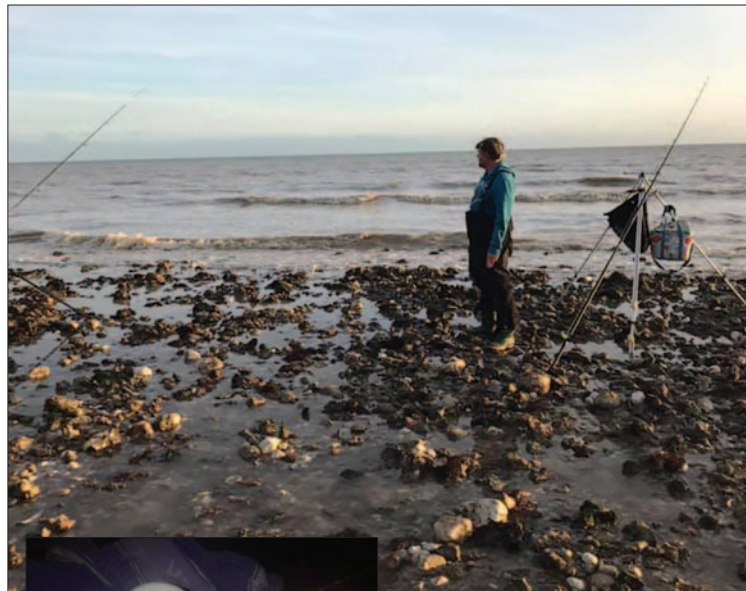
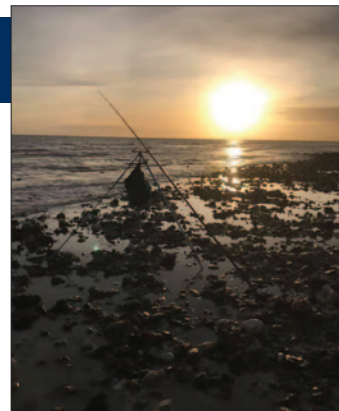
The next hour for Richard saw a few dogfish and a single dreaded whiting, but quite chunky. I couldn't get off the mark however. Then he had another decent pull down followed by a series of big thumps on the rod tip. He was into another decent fish so I got the video working on my phone. This one was stripping line for fun on more than one occasion. After a fair old battle the biggest shore caught conger I have personally seen is on the sand, 14lb 8oz and I was made up for Richard. Unhooked and some photos, then it was returned. A few minutes later and I managed to get off the mark with a dogfish!

We made our final move up onto the top of the shingle and put our second rods out. It went quiet for a while, something which I was quite glad of as it gave me a chance to sample the turkey feast sandwich from M&S, washed down with a bottle of alcohol free pina colada! As the water deepened the swell was getting up a bit with the larger waves washing right up the beach to the bank.

8:30pm and it was my turn, a few decent nods on my rod tip followed by it pulling down and keeping going. I lifted into the fish and was greeted by a couple of thumps. A bit of cranking and I had got it into the shallows when it made one last big lunge for freedom. Too late though and a few seconds later I was holding up a 4lb 10oz conger, a new PB for me so I was happy.

HW came and went with just another couple of dogfish, the problem was the weed had arrived, that horrible stringy stuff that takes ages to get off. We could also see big rafts of it just beyond the surf. We went back down to one rod alternating mackerel and squid baits and persevered with the weed but it seemed that the fish had disappeared so at 11pm we packed up for home. I only had three fish including two dogs, but a PB conger. I was well pleased for Rich though, a good few dogfish, and his first shore caught conger followed by an even bigger one. One whiting between us all night!

Very well done mate!



Tight lines all, Andy

Coarse Fisheries

Beaver Farm Fishery Eastbourne Road, Newchapel Lingfield RH7 6HL	01342 324006 / 07710 656041
Charlies Lakes Steeds Lane, Kingsnorth, Ashford TN26 1NH	07857 539785
Chequertree Trout and Coarse Fishery Bethersden, Near Ashford TN26 3JR	01233 820078
Coombewood Fishery Redbrook Street, High Halden Near Ashford TN26 3JH	07895 679569
Elphicks Fisheries Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden TN12 8EL	01580 212512
Frant Lakes Hawkenbury Road, Bells Yew Green Tunbridge Wells TN3 9AP	01892 616424
Furnace Brook Fishery & Fish Farm Trolliloes Cowbeech, near Hailsham BN27 4QR	01435 830835
Gabriels Fishery Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP	07730 066088
Greenacres Farm Fishery Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden TN27 8EH	07933 934942
Hartley Lands Fishery Swattenden Lane, Cranbrook TN17 3PS	07703 825064
Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	01580 753813
Horam Manor Fishery Horam Manor Farm, Horam TN21 0JB	01323 840889 / 07707 759364
Iden Wood Fishery Coldharbour Lane, Iden, Rye TN31 7UT	01797 280180 / 07906 232225
Knightingales Fishery Stone-In-Oxney, near Tenterden TN30 7HA	07941 176205
Mousehole Lakes Maidstone Road, Nettlestead Near Paddock Wood ME18 5HR	07725 783405
Orchard Place Farm Fishery Pearsons Green Road Paddock Wood TN12 6NY	01892 838576 / 07568 176058
Sandwich Lakes Coarse Fishery Sandwich Ash Road (A257) Near Canterbury CT3 2DA	07936 409912
Tricklebrook Fishery Colts Hill, Five Oak Green TN12 6SH	07743 955812
Wylands International Angling Centre Wylands Farm Powdermill Lane, Battle TN33 0SU	01424 893394

Trout Fisheries

Brick Farm Lakes Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux BN27 4RS	01435 830835
Cinder Hill Fly Fishing Membership available from email: r.nathan@btinternet.com	01892 770903
Coltsford Mill Trout Fishery & Fly Tackle shop Mill Lane, Oxted RH8 9DG	01883 715666 / 07798 605867
Duncton Mill Trout Fishery Dye House Lane Duncton, Petworth GU28 0LF	07855 822401
Spring Hill Trout Waters Albans Farm, Romford Road Pembury TN2 4BB	07951 304515
Tenterden Trout Waters Coombe Farm, Chennell Park Road Tenterden TN30 6XA	01580 763201

Tackle & Bait Supplies

Absolute Tackle 12 Wealden Forest Park Herne Common CT6 7LQ	01227 636724 / 07809 330854
A.R. Tackle 8 Castle Street, Hastings TN34 3DY	01424 422094
Arun Angling Centre The Old Blacksmiths Yard Water Lane, Angmering BN16 4EP	01903 770099

Bodle Angling Cuckfield Road, Burgess Hill RH15 8RE	01444 247757
Camos Carp Cabin 11 Turner Street, Ramsgate CT11 8NJ	01843 581784
Carpers Essentials www.carpersessentials.co.uk Kent based customised hook bait & terminal tackle specialist email: steve@carpersessentials.co.uk	07874 347703
Channel Angling 158-160 Snargate Street, Dover CT17 9BZ	01304 203742
Crowborough Tackle Shop 2, Lexden Lodge Crowborough Hill, Crowborough TN6 2EG	01892 667671
Dens Tackle 73 Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6JN	01303 267053
Eastbourne Aquarium & Reptile Centre 19-21 Seaside, Eastbourne BN21 3PP	01323 730635
Gabriels Fishery Tackle Shop Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP	07730 066088
Henfold Bait & Tackle Henfold Lakes, Henfold Lane Newdigate, Dorking RH5 4RW	07956 043922
Jack Frost Reynolds Place, West Green, Crawley RH11 7HB	01293 521186
Kent Tackle Hawkhurst Fish Farm, Hastings Road Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	01580 754422
Medway Tackle Supplies 11 Twydall Green, Gillingham ME8 6JY	01634 475260
NJ Tackle 150 Milton Road, Gravesend DA12 2RG	01474 353998
Orchard Tackle 58 High Brooms Road, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9DB	07494 670328
Polegate Angling Centre Unit 7, Birch Industrial Estate Eastbourne BN23 6PH	01323 486379
Sheppey Angling Unit 5, Regis Business Park, New Road Sheerness ME12 1HA	01795 661089
South London Angling Centre 286 Lee High Road, London SE13 5PJ	0208 852 4451
Sues Tackle Cabin The Spice Warehouse, Rye Harbour Road Rye TN31 7TE	01797 225015 / 07980 290247
Tony's Tackle Shop 211 Seaside Road, Eastbourne BN22 7NP	01323 731388
Trade In Tackle Maidstone Road, Watlingtonbury ME18 5EH	01622 814296 / 07941 085011

Angling Clubs & Societies

Bromley (Kent) & District AS PO Box 895, East Grinstead RH19 9ND email: bdas-kent-enquiry@bdaskent.co.uk
Hastings Bexhill & District Postal enquiries to: S.Corke, 2 The Sidings, Bexhill On Sea TN40 1RF Chris Pagan: 07429 655237 Steve Potter: 07935 268174
Linton Angling Society Chris Knowler: 07712 622858 or email: chris@lintonangling.co.uk
Teise Anglers & Conservation Society 07960 518738 Further information at www.teiseanglers.org.uk Membership enquiries to email: teisesecretary@gmail.com
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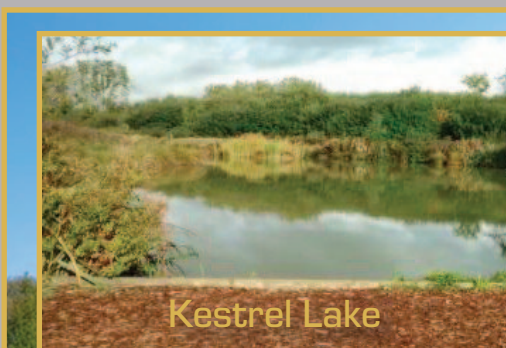
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