

# FRESHWATER INFORMER



Seasons Greetings to you all

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plus JUNIOR INFORMER pages 40-43, TROUT INFORMER pages 44-47, SEA INFORMER pages 48-57

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*Hello and welcome to the December issue of the Freshwater Informer!*

Well here we are at the end of the year, we have made it through 2021! The year got off to a wobbly start as we were given a 'lockdown' last Christmas which lasted through to Easter in one way or another. During that period it was not possible to produce and distribute as normal so it was a waiting game until brighter days emerged. Thankfully we were able to get back to near normal in May. From a personal point of view I could understand why the restrictions were imposed, but following each period of 'lockdown' I was always anxious about the magazine 'bouncing back' to a pre-pandemic level. I must admit to having a few restless nights contemplating this dilemma, however I need not to have worried! The Freshwater Informer has proved to be remarkably resilient to the external pressures and following each lockdown the magazine has bounced back in an amazing fashion. This year has been nothing short of incredible with amazing growth in readership and from advertising interest and content quality. Each month this year we have been able to offer a 60 page publication which has been crammed, cover to cover, with local angling news, articles and much more.

I am incredibly grateful for the support and encouragement from the magazine's loyal readership who have shown so much enthusiasm throughout the year. The readership continues to grow, not only from anglers picking up a paper copy, but from readers who access the magazine via the website. Each month the Informer is read by approx 10,000 people, paper copies and website views combined. The Facebook page, like the magazine, continues to grow at an astonishing rate with nearly 9,000 followers. The future is indeed looking really rather good!

The magazine is and has always been free for readers to pick up and it has been that way since its introduction in 1996. This is only possible due to the fantastic support that we receive from our advertisers, many of whom have been loyal supporters for many, many years. It is this support that creates such a strong partnership between the magazine and the angling businesses throughout the region. Being the magazine's 'delivery boy' I am fortunate to get to visit and chat with the many shops and fisheries that stock and support the Informer each month. I also get to have a 'few' cups of tea and coffee on my way round as well! I always strive to go that 'extra mile' for the advertisers and provide good old fashioned service, doing business how I believe it should be done.

I almost forgot to mention the fishing! 2021 has seen some fantastic results for coarse, carp, trout and sea anglers. As you would have seen there has been no shortage of entrants in to the Catch Photos sections each month! It has also been really encouraging to see so many of our young anglers within the Junior Informer proudly displaying their latest catches. Sea anglers have also had a great year and this has probably been the best year ever for the numbers of bass and smoothounds caught. 2022 is looking very exciting from all 'angles'!

*From us here at the Freshwater Informer, we wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year. See you in January!*

*Barry Reed*

## The Freshwater Informer

6 Meadow Way | Wouldham | Rochester ME1 3GR

e: barnic@btinternet.com

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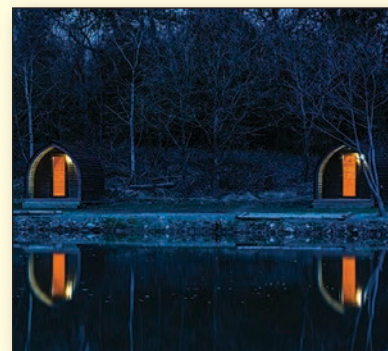


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Charlie Young - 21lbs - New Lake



Jason - 32lbs - Old Lake



Jay - 21lbs 5ozs - New Lake



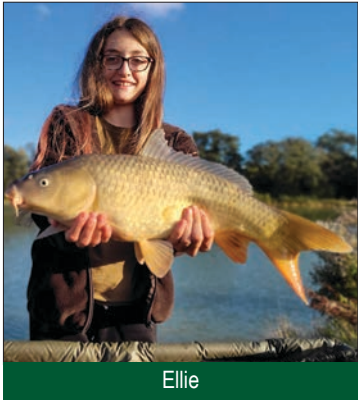
19lbs - New Lake



24lbs - New Lake



Ellie



Ellie



Steve - 34lbs - Old Lake



Jason - 36lbs - Old Lake



28lbs - New Lake



Graham Beadle - 32lbs 4ozs - New Lake



25lbs - New Lake



Graham Beadle - 28lbs 8ozs - New Lake



Jason - 27lbs - New Lake



34lbs - Old Lake



Kyle - 21lbs - New Lake

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## Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

*To fish Snipe Lake, Westlake (formerly Tuscany Lake) or Daughters Lake there are certain tackle requirements in force. Please call or look on our website at [beaverfarmfishery.co.uk](http://beaverfarmfishery.co.uk). We will be offering the yearly membership again. Please call Andy or Ben for more details.*

This month saw Ben and I continue our re-stocking programme with our second and third phase of new fish being delivered. Firstly, we introduced 30 lovely C4 carp which were a mix of mirrors and commons between 10 and 12lb into Majors Lake to add to the existing stock, and then we introduced 5 C4 carp into Daughters Lake, this time weighing between 12-08 and 14-08. Here's a selection of pictures of some of the fish that were delivered. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for info on future stockings.



Majors Lake - stocking



Daughters Lake - stocking



Majors Lake - stocking



Daughters Lake - stocking

The fishery this month has seen a few anglers ready to hang up their fishing equipment until next Spring although fishing to the calendar isn't always wise as the temperatures have been reasonably warm for this time of year. Here is a quick report on some of the captures and how the lakes are performing:

**Snipe Lake** Snipe has produced some crackers again this month with **Fred Walker** banking the 'Big Lin' at 25-10, **Ian York** banked mirrors at 20-09 and 22-06 and **Steven Gallagher** banking commons at 20-08 and 27lb.



Fred Walker - 25lbs 10ozs



Ian York - 20lbs 9ozs



Steven Gallagher - 27lbs



Gary Corke - 40lbs



Les Franklin - 51lbs 8ozs



Vic Collier - 35lbs 13ozs

**Westlake** This water has amazingly produced a few cats even after we had our first couple of frosts. **Les Franklin** banked two at 18-08 and 51-08, **Peter Ellis** had two at 25lbs and 30lbs, **Gary Corke** had six cats to 40lbs, **Vic Collier** had two cats at 17-11 and 35-13 and **Danny Neale** had 4 to 27lbs.

**Jeff's Lake** has been tougher than usual, but we have seen plenty of silvers and bream out as well as F1's.

**Moat Pond** has been slightly harder than usual but anglers have been banking carp to 11lb. **Daughters Lake** like the other lakes, has been a bit tricky but **Matt Burns** managed to winkle out a nice 19lbs common and I was lucky enough to bank a couple of low double mirrors on my weekly overnighter. **Eden Pond** as you would expect has shut down a bit now as the water gets colder, the tench will lay up now until the Spring arrives. **Maze Lake** has seen a few people get amongst the carp, **Andrew Yeo** banked a nice 7lbs mirror and **Terry Edwards** who when switching over to a method feeder hasn't looked back. He has visited us numerous times this last month and always seems to find the carp banking plenty to around 10lbs. **Majors Lake** has been very tough on the pike front with the biggest banked being 15lbs by **Alex Chapman** reeling in his carp bait and his dad **Colin** banking a 14-08 common, **Graham Leppard** had a common of 10lbs while **Jason Horne** banked a pike of 12-07.



Matt Burns - 19lbs

# NUTRABAITS®



## THE LEGEND RETURNS MARCH 2022

## Gabriels Fishery Edenbridge, Kent

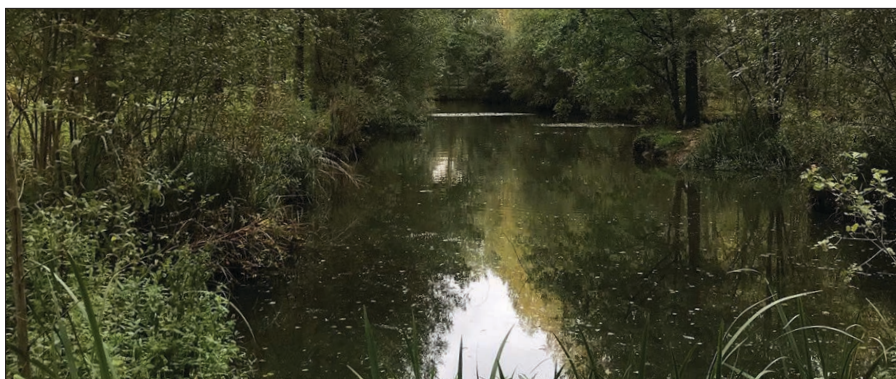
Thank you so much to everyone who has supported Gabriels Fishery this year. We've seen some lovely catch reports on all our lakes from all of our friendly anglers. 2022 is looking to be an exciting one here at Gabriels with work already underway on Admiral Lake alongside other work we already have planned.



*Our Shop, Fishery and Farm team would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

For more information Gabriels Fishery can be contacted on **07730 066088**.

*Some of the catch highlights from our year!*



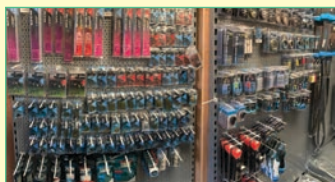
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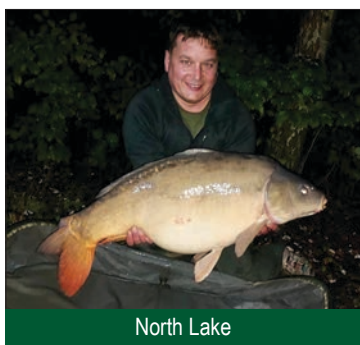
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**Elphicks Fisheries** Horsmonden, Kent

Nicholas' group - Kettles Lake



Nicholas' group - Kettles Lake

William's group  
North Lake

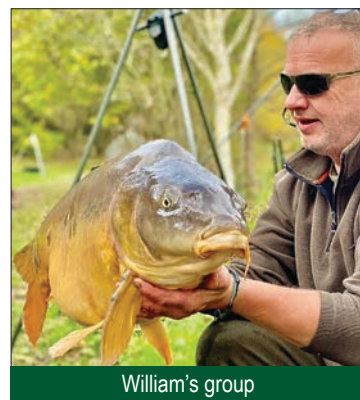
North Lake



Jake Fullager - 24lbs 2ozs Kettles Lake



29lbs - Prairie Lake



William's group

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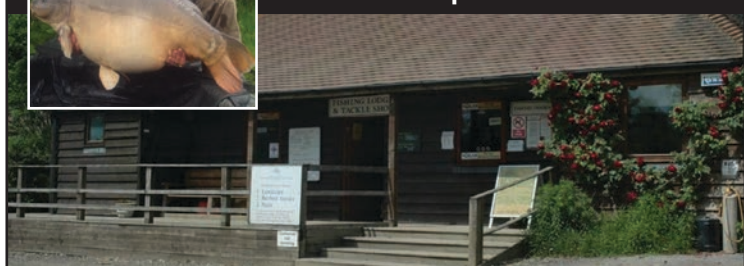
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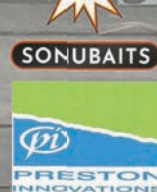


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**Robin Piper has been in touch to tell me about the work that has been carried out at Claygate Lakes over the past months and his thoughts on fishing at this time of year:**



"Dear Barry, The good news is that Claygate Lakes has seen a vast improvement this year in as much as some good sized tench have been introduced in to Lake Sophie (the Snake lake), about a dozen fish between five and nine pounds and Dave hopes to put some more big bream in as well. All the old style swims have been removed on Lake Eva and have been cleaned up and now look a lot better as the photos show. Stone has been put down to your swim so as not to damage the grass area on either side. A number of new buildings have been put up and improved showers and toilets have been installed. Some of the small trees along the banks have been trimmed or removed on the specimen lake (Amy) as well as some reeds removed and trimmed back. Lake Sophie has had most of the overhanging bushes cut back so as not to tangle and catch lines when casting or playing fish and the swims have been serviced. Dave and his team have done a very good job on the fishery and it is looking wonderful.

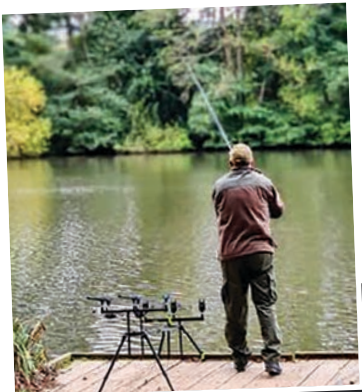
Back to the fishing! As it is mid November (at the time of writing) fishing start times can be so very different to that of Summer. With flat calm water and very little wind you think that it can't be long before a take occurs, well that is what I would like to think, however, it can take as much as two or three hours before some sort of action starts to take place and then you may have two or three fish in an hour before it all goes quiet again. Could it be the air pressure or temperature of the water that makes the fish reluctant to feed or perhaps over feeding from the anglers the previous day? Who knows! I had a good session on Lake Eva last January. I began with a bottom bait with little result so I decided to fish floating crust, yes in January! It proved to be a good choice as I ended up with 45lbs of carp by the end of the day. Like all fisheries, no two days are the same and Claygate Lakes are no different. One day prawns will work well, but the next day they are ignored. Cockles and mussels (not pickled from a jar) can also be good when the fish pick them up as are crayfish tails. These are some of the less common baits that I have used with success not just at Claygate but on other venues. However, I always have my old favourites, maggots and casters and a loaf of bread, at this time of year as I always try and be prepared! I was talking to some 'bivvy boys' recently who had been without a run or fish for several days despite changing swims but I guess that is fishing, especially at this time of the year!" **Kind Regards, Robin**



### Bury Hill zander for Janusz & Martynas

Janusz Kansik sent in this report after he and angling buddy Martynas visited Surrey's Bury Hill Fishery in search of zander: "I run the Building Bridges Project from the Angling Trust and I thought it could be a great opportunity to send you a couple of pictures from my recent session at the Bury Hill Fishery near Dorking. Me and my fishing buddy Martynas managed to catch 8 zander. My two biggest were 80cms and 82cms and the largest weighed 12lbs 4ozs.

I used a small section of roach (head or tail) which produced a great number of runs. I hold the lake record on that fishery for zander from 2018 (if I remember rightly!) at 17lbs 2ozs. I did not expect much during the last session as it was warm in the night, but for some reason it turned out to be a great session! This is what I love about fishing the most- you never know what will happen! You are more than welcome to use these pictures if needed." **Best Regards, Janusz Kansik**



### Ben and Alfie do well at Cottington!

Ben Hogben sent in this report recently following a session at Cottington Lakes with his nephew Alfie: "I decided to take my nephew Alfie on a fishing trip to Cottington's specimen Lake Christine. It's fair to say the moon phase was fair to us with lots of commons coming out. My nephew Alfie Hogben did manage three commons, the biggest at 23lbs 8ozs. I managed to land the lake's biggest mirror that

swung the needle round on the Reuben Heaton's to 36lbs 15ozs. I did have it verified by Paul in the shop. I also had the 'Carrot' at 24lbs so all in all a great trip. **Many thanks, Ben Hogben**

Ben Hogben 36lb 15oz



Alfie Hogben 23lb 8oz



Alfie with a nice common

Ben Hogben 24lb



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**Field Lake** We are running private club matches on Fridays which have turned out to be very productive on the fishing front. All the anglers are catching with 50lbs bags of carp being a regular occurrence.

**House Lake** has produced a few bites and has been popular with the seniors where we run our reduced ticket rate on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday please, call 01424 893394 to get this discount.

**Kell Lake** has been very popular. Those that have fished it have been rewarded with some lovely specimens.

**Snake Lake** Despite the weather, large bags of carp are being weighed in regularly. The Snake Lake makes for some fantastic pleasure fishing throughout the week.

**Old Spec** The fish in Old Spec seem to be shoaled up in large groups. If you can find these groups then multiple takes are on the cards. Some anglers have had 20 plus fish in a session. The lake is also producing far more double figure fish than ever.



**New Spec** The fish seem to be growing and growing as the lake now holds many twenties and is now producing 30lbs plus carp.

**Middle Lake** The fish are feeding more in open water early evening and at night. This lake is fast becoming very popular with carp being banked to 28lbs.



## Plurenden Lane High Halden TN26 3JW

## Kube Lakes



Oak Tree is a 1 acre lake formed around an impressive oak tree. This really is a beautiful lake, Oak Tree has only 4 double swims, one on each corner of the lake with an island in the middle. Depths range from 5ft to 8ft. Currently there are 47 catfish to 50lb, 20 carp to 22lb and a small number of pike, however, more carp will be stocked over the course of the 2021/22 winter.



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24hr £15 • 36hr £20 • 48hr £30

## Lillies Lake

Lillies is still under construction, but will be a small tranquil lake of only 0.5 acre shaped as a horseshoe. Lillies will be, as the name suggests, covered in lily pads and only have 2 swims. This lake will be for the more experienced angler who wishes to have the whole lake to themselves with the opportunity to catch one of Kube Lakes finest carp! Lillies will be home to no more than 25 carp, all in excess of 20lb with a select few over the 30lb mark along with a couple of surprises! This water will also have it's own pod where anglers can shower, cook, sleep etc., and this is due to be ready for March 2022.

Minimum stay • 48hr £100  
Week - Monday to Sunday • £400

## Members Lake

A 2.5 - 3 acre carp lake. This lake, like Lillies, is still under construction and will be ready for March 2022. There will be between 7 and 8 swims and a maximum of just 40 members. This lake has already been getting plenty of attention with 50% of memberships already sold! We will be introducing a carefully thought out stocking process over the course of the next couple of years to eventually reach the target of 100 specimen carp all 20lb+.

Yearly membership £200.  
Day sessions not chargeable, however, a charge for longer sessions will be: 36hrs £20 • 48hrs £30. For sessions of 48hrs or more you get a 1kg bag of boilies plus 2 FREE meal vouchers!

**ALL OUR LAKES ARE STRICTLY BY BOOKING ONLY**

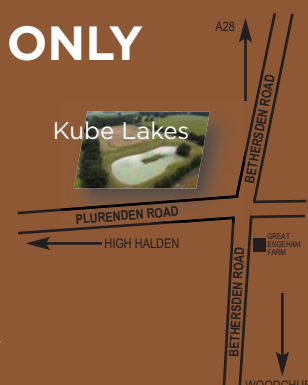
via Facebook  @Kubelakes or Instagram



@Kube\_Lakes or WhatsApp  07742 423681

or email: [kubelakes@gmail.com](mailto:kubelakes@gmail.com)

Plurenden Road, High Halden, Ashford - nearest postcode TN26 3JW





## ORCHARD PLACE FARM FISHING

13 FISHING LAKES in the KENT COUNTRYSIDE

Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6NY

Tel: 01892 838576 Mob: 07860 608218



**Carp to 49lb+**



**Catfish to 101lb+**

At Orchard Place Farm you can surround yourself in the natural beauty of the Kent countryside, located just outside of the picturesque town of Paddock Wood, and only 8 miles from Maidstone. The fishery boasts 13 lakes - 10 carp and catfish lakes and 3 match/pleasure lakes.

### SPECIMEN LAKES

DAY TICKETS AVAILABLE

24HR - £30

48HR - £55

(additional charge for 3rd rod)

### FULLY FUNCTIONING LAKE 13 - CARP & CATFISH WATER

Many swims have disabled access • All-weather pathways leading all around the lakes and up to each individual swim • Purpose-built toilets located in the main car park (with hot shower) • Between Lake 3 and Lake 4 (toilet and sink block only) • Block constructed by Lake 7 also contains a microwave, fridge and washing up facilities.

**FOOD IS AVAILABLE ON SITE FROM MID-MARCH TO OCTOBER**

### MATCH/PLEASURE LAKES

DAY TICKETS

2 RODS - £10

CONCESSIONS

1 ROD - £8

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

Tackle/bait/shop situated in the main car park, stocking all top bait brands inc worms maggots etc. Everything you need at VERY competitive prices.



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Newchapel, Lingfield, Surrey RH7 6HL

Tel: 01342 324006

Mobile: 07710 656041



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

Email:

[beaverfarmfishery@live.co.uk](mailto:beaverfarmfishery@live.co.uk)

Facebook: beaverfishery

Instagram: @beaverfishery



We are a commercial day ticket fishery and have 2 Specimen Lakes, 3 Coarse Lakes and 3 Ponds.  
Open 7am - 7pm Summer time and 7am - 6pm Winter time. Day ticket, overnight and long stays welcome.

### Facilities include:

On Site Tackle Shop  
Shower/Wetroom  
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Disabled Friendly Parking  
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2 Chalets available for hire  
Automatic Security Gates that close at 7pm (Summer) 6pm (Winter)  
24 hour C.C.T.V

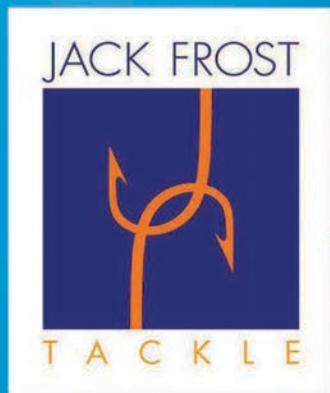


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(All Welcome)

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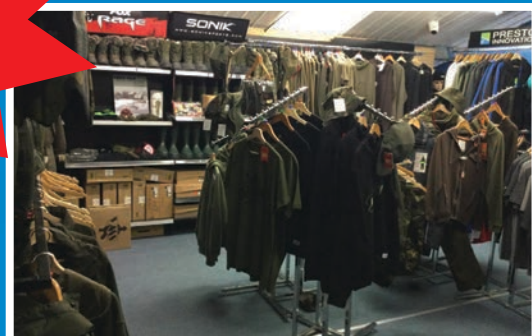
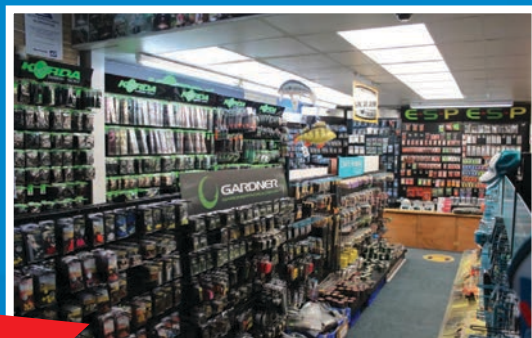
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Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society



**The Old Ballast Pit** Carp are still being caught to 20lbs+ although it has slowed down a little. Venue bailiff Kristy continues to catch some nice Carp in between work duties. Some good Bream have also been caught on Carp tactics with fish to 11lbs reported.

**Barden Lake** Reports have been thin on the ground of late although there are fish still being caught. The odd decent Pike has been reported.

**Haysden Lake** Good bags of silvers still being caught with the odd decent Perch to over 1lb.

**The New Lagoon** The Tench fishing has slowed but good Bream and Roach with the odd Carp to 8lbs being caught.

The Society has recently received some lovely 4" Bream,

Roach and Rudd from the EA which have gone into the Ballast Pit. They also provided 350 4" Crucians for Pippins Farm. Some nice Perch were also introduced to the New Lagoon, Ballast Pit and Pippins Farm, these were supplied by Coarse fish UK.

Society members collaborated with the Angling Trust and Environment Agency recently to promote the image of angling as a whole. It was pleasing to note that the majority of the rubbish collected was not associated to anglers and comment was made by the Angling Trust organizer that the lakes and surrounding areas were relatively litter free. A great turnout and a big THANK YOU to all who put the effort in to make this a successful morning.



**The River Medway** has continued to fish well up to mid November with great reports of Roach captures.

The Society matches have been well attended and some very good weights have been required to frame. Tonbridge recently fished the home leg against Edenbridge and it was a very close affair. Individually, **Lee Wakeman** of Tonbridge took top spot with 6 Bream for 12lbs 12ozs, 2nd spot went to **Keith Turner** of Edenbridge with 8lbs 6ozs and 3rd spot went to **Bob Wallace** of Edenbridge with 7lbs 14ozs. Team wise, Tonbridge won the day with 37lbs 9ozs and Edenbridge recorded 30lbs 3ozs.



New member **Charlie Bint** visited the river at Hartlake and on his second visit, caught a cracking Pike of just over 24lbs on legered dead Roach.



HOUGHTON CUP 3

SIX ARCHES

(20 fished)

1st	Steve Parker	5lbs 15ozs
2nd	Roger Marsh	4lbs 0ozs
3rd	Mick Smith	3lbs 10ozs

HOUGHTON CUP 4

HARTLAKE UP

(22 fished)

1st	Austin Battell	16lbs 4ozs
2nd	Derek Butcher	14lbs 12ozs
3rd	Steve Parker	13lbs 6ozs

RON WILLIAMS CUP

HARTLAKE DOWN

(23 fished)

1st	Austin Battell	6lbs 4ozs
2nd	Dave Williams	2lbs 5ozs
3rd	Stuart Cottingham	1lb 12ozs





## WELCOME TO ARUN ANGLING CENTRE

Arun Angling is located just five minutes from the A27 on the outskirts of the pretty town of Angmering. The store has it's own ample car park offering FREE parking solely for it's own customers' use only.

### *Have you visited the newly refitted Arun Angling store at Angmering?*

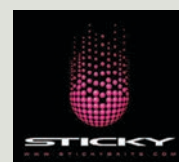
Arun Angling Centre was established in 1990 and over the years has grown into the biggest shop of its kind locally.

Having moved to larger premises in order to satisfy demand, the shop now boasts over 2,000 sq.ft of display space enabling us to exhibit the massive range of stock we hold from all leading tackle and bait suppliers.

At Arun Angling Centre you will always receive a warm welcome, good advice and a great variety of products to choose from.

We cater for all disciplines of freshwater angling including carp, specimen, match, game and pleasure.

We are delighted to offer you a number of **INTEREST FREE** payment options for those larger purchases, so please feel free to chat with us when considering your next tackle purchase!



**The Old Blacksmiths Yard, Water Lane, Angmering BN16 4EP**

Open: **Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm**  
**Saturday 8am to 5pm**

*Any questions*

Call: **01903 770099**

Email: **arun.angling@hotmail.co.uk**

Find us on

**www.arunangling.co.uk**

## Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hawkhurst, Kent

It's certainly clear that we are coming towards the end of the year, with the temperatures dropping, the fishing is becoming harder, but those who brave the cold are certainly being rewarded with some beautiful captures! It's great to see our carp putting on their winter weight, with some fantastic catches from all lakes. A quick reminder that all lakes (excluding Specimen Lake) will be closed from 13th December, through to 11th February 2022. This allows us time to carry out maintenance, and rest the lakes.

### Specimen Lake

**Ricky Young** said his recent session was hard going, but he was rewarded by landing a lovely brace; a 31lbs mirror and a pristine (his words) Common weighing in at 23lbs 4ozs. Well done Ricky. One of our newer members, **Gavin**, was over the moon to catch a beautiful mirror just shy of 40lbs during his second session on the lake!



39lb 3oz Mirror - Specimen Lake  
Gavin Dumell



39lb 3oz Mirror - Specimen Lake  
Gavin Dumell



23lb 4oz Common - Specimen Lake  
Ricky Young



31lb Mirror - Specimen Lake  
Ricky Young



33lb 8oz Cat - Main Lake - Dan Carter

### Main Lake

**Dan Carter** ended up catching a 33lbs 8ozs cat off peg 14. He was actually fishing for carp but said he will be back to have another go at the cats as they put up a good fight. He was fishing with a krill boilie over a bed of krill pellet, maize and hemp. **Tommy Bristow** managed a 25lbs 8ozs common and two smaller mirrors from the back bank during a 60 hour session.

### Dove Lake

**Zac, Warren, Ollie and Jude** all had results, finishing up with four carp between them. All were commons, ranging in weight from 21 - 27.5lbs. Zac had the biggest, weighing in at 27.5lbs, Warren was second with a 26.5lb, Ollie was third, landing a 23lb which gave him a new **PB**, with Jude landing the 21lb. Warren also sent us a photo of young Zac landing his first big monster here at the fish farm.....



It's great to see his progression. A big well done to **Tommy Belcher** who caught a new **PB** common during his session, weighing in at 20lbs.

**Steve Yates** had a 26lb common during a weekend session.

### Quarry Lake

**Rob Jackson** had a great day, catching 21 carp and 1 catfish of 14lbs 8ozs and a 13lbs common followed by a 15lbs common and two 16lbs commons and a 17lbs common. And our regular angler, **Ron**, caught what may be the prettiest carp in Quarry using maggot and Arma bait soak.

**John and Terry** had a great day during the week, as they were the only ones on the lake and managed an impressive 9 fish between them.



27lb 8oz Common - Dove Lake - Zac



Rob Jackson with one of his many catches from Quarry



Ron on Quarry  
Lovely carp

## Hawkhurst Fish Farm

Hastings Road, Hawkhurst, Kent, TN18 4RT

Ample Parking - Shower & Toilets -  
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All lakes (excluding  
Specimen Lake) close 13<sup>th</sup>  
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February 2022.

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Book now for exclusive hire of  
Main Lake (up to 11 anglers)  
or Dove Lake (up to 6 anglers).  
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would like to book!

WE WISH YOU A VERY  
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VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!  
TIGHT LINES.



T: 01580 753813 E: info@hawkhurstfishfarm.co.uk

www.hawkhurstfishfarm.co.uk



# GREENACRES FARM FISHERY



Sissinghurst Road | Biddenden | Kent | TN27 8EH

Located on the Weald of Kent in Biddenden we offer syndicate quality lakes for all. There is one specimen lake for carp up to 30lbs+, one specimen predator lake for carp to 27lbs+, catfish to 60lbs+ and pike, one match lake with twenty-two purpose built swims, one coarse lake and finally a tench/family pond. Facilities include a club house with toilets, shower, wet room and kitchen facilities.

*This beautiful setting needs to be visited and enjoyed!*

Prices start at £10 per session on the coarse lakes, £15 for the specimen lakes rising to £25 for a 24 hour ticket (£5 extra for a third rod).

Gates open at 7am and close at 7pm

SENIOR DAY TICKETS ON OUR COARSE LAKES HERON AND BLUEBELL ARE AVAILABLE FOR £5 MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY

To book, please call or text us on **07933 934942**  
or visit our website **[www.greenacresfarmfishery.co.uk](http://www.greenacresfarmfishery.co.uk)**

Email : [greenacresfarmfishery@gmail.com](mailto:greenacresfarmfishery@gmail.com)



# Hartley Lands Fishery

Swattenden Lane, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 3PS

We are a day ticket fishery that offers specimen carp fishing, pleasure / coarse fishing and match fishing across our 6 lakes and 1 pond. Our lakes are maintained and managed to the highest of standards creating the best possible fishing environment and experience.

The complex is run on a booking system basis only other than Samson and Finches.

We also have brand new toilet and shower facilities built that cater to everyone's needs.

Carp to 38lb+, Tench to 10lb+, Perch to 5lb, Bream to 7lb, Roach to 2lb,  
Crucian Carp to 2lb 4oz



Instagram

Open: 7am - 7pm summer time & 7am - 5.30pm winter time

Bailiff number: 07703 825064



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



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Mixed coarse fishery with carp to mid 20s  
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Day ticket fishing - Dawn to Dusk - Only £5 per rod!



24 hour fishing  
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Non-members £20  
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Buy a whip, bait + Day Ticket for just £15!

**f** Horam Manor Farm, Horam TN21 0JB  
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[www.horammanorfishery.com](http://www.horammanorfishery.com)

# BODLE angling

Cuckfield Road  
**BURGESS HILL RH15 8RE**

**01444 247757**  
[www.bodlebrothers.co.uk](http://www.bodlebrothers.co.uk)

Opening times:

Mon-Fri: 8.00am to 5.30pm

Sat: 8.00am to 12.30pm

Sunday & Bank Holiday: Closed



check out our Facebook and Instagram  
for the latest news and competitions!



**Furnace Brook**  
... naturally inspiring

"A piece of  
angling heaven"

River-fed 5acre lake with a range  
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Tench (5lbs +)

Perch (3lbs +)

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Bream

Barbel

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UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON  
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2021-2030



## Batsford Hollow

For group overnight stays

Facilities:

- 8 secluded & spacious swims
- Bespoke overnight shelters
- Catering facilities
- Showers

## Main Lake

Day & overnight tickets

Facilities:

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- Catering facilities
- Showers



[furnacebrook.co.uk/fishing](http://furnacebrook.co.uk/fishing)

01435 830 835

[enquiries@furnacebrook.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@furnacebrook.co.uk)

Trolliloes Lane, Trolliloes, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 4QR

## Continental Carping

**T**hough any fishing trip is a thrilling adventure, I have to confess that trips abroad do have that extra 'buzz' and the months, weeks, days, hours and seconds leading up to the time you leave is just a gradual build up of excitement and expectation. Even as I get older, and after so many trips, my latest mission to France was no different and, as the clock ticked down, all you can think about is getting to Dover, on the Ferry and meeting up with your friends who are coming with you!



The latest trip was the first Team Pallatrax Overseas Fish-In to France where our destination was to be the famous Les Quis complex of four lakes: Elf, Long, Bay and Old, please visit [www.lesquis.com](http://www.lesquis.com) for more information. Many call the venue 'The best chance in France' due to the large amount of stunning carp that swim in the depths of the lakes with the biggest touching around 60lbs.

Taking a large group was certainly going to be interesting, as many hadn't fished abroad before, but with our Fish-In's they are designed to take the pressure off everyone through their organisation and it was great to see we all arrived safely and on time.

On our arrival the excitement was palpable, and why wouldn't it be as we had 'landed' at our destination and were with a big bunch of like-minded anglers all committed to enjoy our stay at such a prolific and well run fishery. There is a large anglers' lodge on site with excellent facilities and the food package was something to be in awe of; freshly cooked and with portions to feed even the most hungry of us!!

For me it was even more special because I was also meeting up with a friend of old, Bob Hodges, who is the Fishery Manager at Les Quis, an awesome angler himself and who is dedicated to helping his customers have a great session with advice on hand at all times.

The first few hours are spent drinking brews at the lodge and then walking the banks prior to the draw, the all important draw where you pull your number out of the hat and then select which swim you are going to fish. The nice thing is that with such a big venue if you did fancy a change during the week, you can move and life is easier because you can drive to a lot of the swims or there is a Quad service to take and retrieve you from the swims that you can't drive to. Dragging the amount of kit we take on such sessions, well you really wouldn't want to barrow it to the far flung swims!



*Awesome meals prepared in the lodge*



*My room with a view!*

It wasn't too long until everyone was setting up in their swims and those who wanted to double up were all accommodated. The swims are all of a good size so even the biggest bivvy fitted and each angler had plenty of water in front of them. There is nothing worse than going away on a long session and finding yourself in a cramped swim and hardly any water to attack, something that would never be the case at Les Quis!

Before I move on with the tale, I would like to highlight that going abroad is not really a huge difference to that of a long session in the UK. Some would say different, but the main things are to ensure that your kit is up to fishing for bigger fish. Personally, I have never fished with rods abroad with a test curve over 2.75lb and I use 0.33mm Gamma Line with a breaking strain of 20lb and never had any issues whatsoever. There is a school of thought you really need to 'beef' things up, but in reality you are just fishing for bigger

fish but the kit we tend to use in the UK will work just fine. The other thing is bait and I see reports of anglers taking vast amounts on these trips. What I would say is firstly find out the nutritional value of the baits you are taking. If it is of a high nutritional value you can take less, but just be aware that you are fishing for larger fish in the main and they can eat more if they go on the munch. The one area of caution on top of the nutritional value is that if you put it in you can't take it out and too much bait means the mathematical odds of your hook bait being picked up is seriously reduced. Just think, a kilo of boilies can be about 300 baits and I have seen people reporting to fishing over beds of 50 kilos, 50 x 300 = 15,000 baits!!! Like the match angler, unless fishing a vast piece of water, I am more inclined to bait little and often and only put more in if the bites are prolific. Back to the tale! High up on most angler's list when going to France is to break that personal best and to see some huge carp up close and personal. Fishing any new venue is always exciting as you wait for that first run but when it could be a monster things reach another level and that first beep sends the adrenaline rushing! I am all about our sport creating some fantastic memories and catching such large specimens will certainly do that!



*Glugging hookbaits in the super sticky Jungle Glug*



*My rig set up. 25lb Steamlink, Size 6 Wide Gape Gripz, two pieces of maize with a 10mm Jungle White Squab pop up. All plugged in Jungle Glug*

people reporting to fishing over beds of 50 kilos, 50 x 300 = 15,000 baits!!! Like the match angler, unless fishing a vast piece of water, I am more inclined to bait little and often and only put more in if the bites are prolific. Back to the tale! High up on most angler's list when going to France is to break that personal best and to see some huge carp up close and personal. Fishing any new venue is always exciting as you wait for that first run but when it could be a monster things reach another level and that first beep sends the adrenaline rushing! I am all about our sport creating some fantastic memories and catching such large specimens will certainly do that!

I would have to admit the following days would turn out to be fairly challenging and it again shows how weather conditions certainly affect our angling. The weather was far from perfect and, in my angling experiences, turned out to be some of the worst when we had flat calm conditions, blazing hot days into the 70s, I ended up with a decent tan, and then rapidly dropping down where we even had a frost one night!

But our trip was far from unsuccessful and even in such poor angling conditions Les Quis really is a prolific venue. Yes, the bites came in fits and starts with most of the larger fish feeding at night, but all of us caught bar one angler. Personal bests were smashed across the complex and to see the enjoyment and support by such a great group was inspiring. Old timers were on hand to help and advise with rig tying sessions through to casting practice and with dedicated meal times we would all reel in and go to the lodge where we shared our experiences, and had some great laughs, over a coffee or beer.

Seeing such level of genuine support is what amazes me within Team Pallatrax and the fact that we are all singing off the same hymn sheet does nothing but inspire me. For example, one of the Team was having a red letter session but then kindly offered



47lbs 12ozs for Tim Pittham

another member who was struggling in his swim to drop in for the day into his swim. That kind gesture ended up with the invited guest catching his new personal best. How good is that?!

Over the week fishing in such hard conditions there was still over 160 carp landed to just shy of 50lbs and yet again proved that the Stonze System, Gripz design hooks and Steamlink Rigs really do perform wherever they go!

Needless to say, with such a successful French Fish-In under our belts, more are already planned including a return trip to Les Quis for the same time next year. If you haven't yet had the chance to go on such a trip they are amazing fun and the angling memories created will be with you for life. If you fancy coming along on one of the many Team Pallatrax Fish-Ins please feel free to join this exciting initiative, a great, safe and friendly community for all anglers whatever your age or experience [www.teampallatrax.com](http://www.teampallatrax.com)

Till next time, stay safe and catch more, and if you have any questions please always feel free to contact me – [simon@pallatrax.co.uk](mailto:simon@pallatrax.co.uk)



Pom with a stunning mirror

Simon 'Pom' Pomeroy

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email: alex@coombewoodfishery.com

## Greenacres Farm Fishery Biddenden, Kent

**Speci 1** This lake has been proving challenging at times with the weather being so up and down, but those that are up for a challenge have been reward with a couple of fish. Solid pva bags over a small bed of particle seems to be the winning way of getting a few fish out. There are also some lovely perch to be had with the biggest so far weighing in at a whopping 5lb 3oz!

**Speci 2** Still producing catfish with some lovely carp in with the mix, the catfish are slowing up now the temperatures are dropping but one or two are still showing. Catfish are being taken on heavily baited areas of mixed sized marine halibut pellets using single 21mm robin reds or luncheon meat over the top. Carp are being caught the same way but with a solid pva bag with a wafer or a pop up over the top.

**Heron** A lovely mixed coarse lake that has been very popular with the regulars catching a lovely mixed bag of fish with the odd chance of catching a good size carp up to 15lbs, average carp being caught are between 6-7lbs. Large bags of skimmers being caught since the colder weather has settled in.

**Kingfisher** This is an overstocked match lake and great fun with a guarantee of catching, brilliant for families or anyone wanting to teach their kids how to fish. Stay away from boilies in here and use natural baits like maggots, corn, pellets, worms etc on a light float fishing setup.

**Bluebell** A little tench pond tucked out of the way, this pond is showing a good number of tench being caught on float or feeder tactics using worm, maggot, paste or sweetcorn on the hook. The carp in here are also stunning fish that can be caught up to 10lbs with the odd roach, rudd and gudgeon.

### Rules

- Please dip all nets, slings, cradles and unhooking mats located in car parks before entering a lake.
- No one under the age of 16 to be left unattended at all times, this also means to and from the toilet.
- No one under the age of 18 is allowed to night fish without a responsible ADULT.
- No takeaways after 6pm



## Shirkoak Fishery and B&B



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**The Willows Angling Centre, Bax Farm, Lower Road, Teynham, Kent ME9 9BU**



### Langley's Lake

A 3-acre specimen carp lake with hard fighting fish up to 30lbs. We only allow a maximum of 8 anglers at time on to this water which has a variety of features to fish to. Langley's is the largest lake at the venue and there are a number of additional fishery rules in place on this water. The average depth is around 5'. Get your tactics right and you can expect a great session!  
**£15 / 12 hours - £30 / 24 hours**  
**No concessions.**



### The Stream

Approx 1/3 mile long with an average width of 30', this canalised section of water offers anglers the opportunity to fish with a pole or rod for a variety of fish including crucians, roach, rudd, bream, perch and tench. A very popular water for those who enjoy a more traditional style of fishing. The average depth is 4' and there are 60 pegs available.  
**£10 / 12 hours - £20 / 24 hours**  
**Concessions available.**  
**Match bookings available.**



### The Pan Lake

A more intimate water than Langley's with carp to 20lbs along with a selection of silver fish including roach, tench, barbel and perch. With an average depth of 5' and lots of features, this pretty water offers all anglers a great day out.  
**£10 / 12 hours - £20 / 24 hours**  
**No concessions.**



### Farm Lake

An average depth of 4' with lots of features, this lovely water is well stocked with carp, bream, roach, perch and F1s. This water is a popular choice for families, young anglers and beginners and is close to the well presented on-site facilities.  
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DAIWA Ninja Match/Feeder 3012A	19205	£53.99
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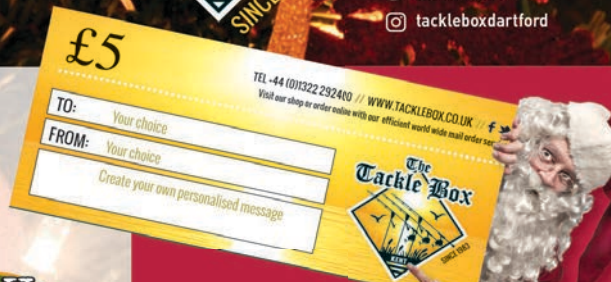
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*well done!*



Jack Kellam  
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Antony Meakins  
30lbs 8ozs Coombe Banks Fishery



Matthew Good



Jake Woolard- first carp!



Mark Day - River Stour



Jude - 21lbs Hawkhurst



Ollie Davies - 23lbs Hawkhurst



Zac - 27lbs 5ozs Hawkhurst



Paul Davis - Hawkhurst Quarry Lake



Dale Green - 17lbs 8ozs Sandwich Lakes



Jack - 45lbs 2ozs Cackle Hill



Ron Davis - 21lbs Quarry Lake



Adrian Hayllar  
17lbs 2ozs Shirkoak Fishery



Elainor Birch  
32lbs 12ozs Mousehole Lakes



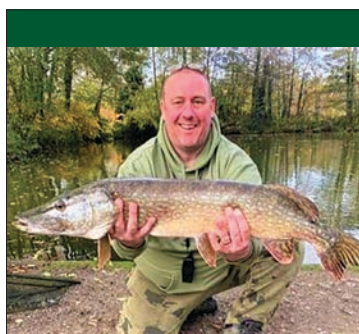
Gordon Fellows  
19lbs 8ozs Lovelace Farm



Simon Church - 31lbs Orchard Lakes



Harry at Orchard Place Farm - Lake 2



Darren Bartholomew - Darenth Fishery



Steven Wolvey at Orchard Place Farm



Frank Izzard  
17lbs 8ozs Shirkoak Fishery



Neil Willis - 10lbs 14ozs Private Water



Shaun Bayes - 72lbs Cackle Hill



Christopher Taylor - Local pit



Lee Prior - River Stour



Joe Glanville - 20lbs Frant Lakes



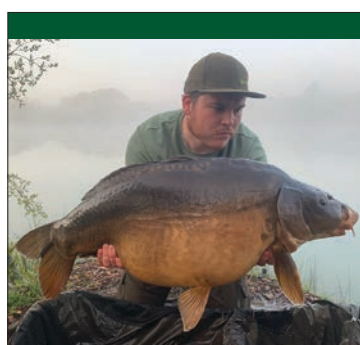
Mick Fellows  
21lbs 10ozs Lovelace Fishery



Warren Edwards  
26lbs 5ozs Hawkhurst



Sam Chats - 24lbs Swanborough Lakes



Ryan Lamont - 33lbs Clay Pit Fishery



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Night Fishing 24 hours:  
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**Night fishing:  
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Contact Wantsum Angling Association on **01227 678063**  
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We can also be contacted via the  
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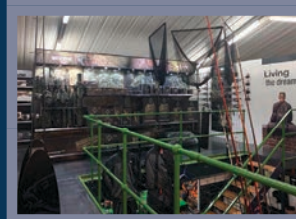
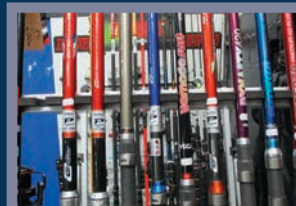
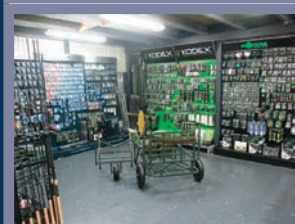
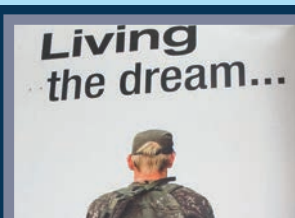
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## The Linton Angling Society - Membership Vacancies

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

e-mail: lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk

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Contact Martyn on **07802 248861**



### Hastings Bexhill & District Freshwater Angling Association

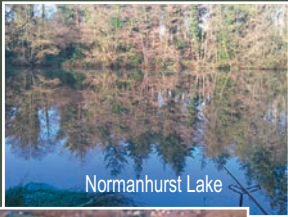
Season runs from 1st April to 31st March.

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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# The Golden Years of Coarse Fishing

by Bob Rolph

## *The Rookery 1960-64*

*The Rookery Lake looking up towards the island*

**I have written before about my love for old estate lakes, and this small Georgian one fits the bill exactly, even if it could have been dug a bit bigger. They dug by hand 300 years ago and it must have taken quite some effort! The Rookery is set in a shallow wooded valley a few miles from central Bromley and this narrow dammed lake has seen much history. A clear chalk stream feeds the head of this two acre lake behind an island with thick rhododendron bushes shielding one side of the water. The high alkalinity of the water promotes extensive weed growth with water lilies and soldier weed prominent around the island swims.**

The Rookery Estate was owned by an Archibald Norman during the First World War and used as a military hospital for the duration. The 250 year old Georgian House burnt down in 1945, and Bromley Technical College was subsequently built on the site, keeping the old estate lake intact lower down the shallow valley. In 1700 many large estate houses were built on the outskirts of London, and Holwood, Ravensbourne and

Oakley House gave employment to the local people of the Bromley area. The Norman family in fact owned much of Bromley Common and when Bromley Council purchased land in the 1920s, the area now known as Norman Park was formed between Hayes and the Rookery Lake.

I first fished here in 1960, when it was a private fishing club owned by Oliver Cutts, catching good roach, chub, wild common carp, crucian carp and tench. Largish pike inhabited the lake and plug fishing in the winter produced many fish up to 10lbs for me and my friends. This was not a specimen fish water by any means, but served its purpose for kids like me in their teens learning all about fishing. The tench fishing was probably

the best, with catches of a dozen fish a session up to 4 lbs quite common on worm or bread flake in the early mornings of the school holidays. We fished at night for the crucian carp with the beam of a Pifco lantern aimed across the surface to the red float sat beside the lily beds. The famous boathouse swim on the east bank saw good bags of fish in the net by dawn, and then a fry up on our brass pump up meths stove. We spent most of our holidays either here, at Keston or on the Medway.



*Me in 1962 - a 9lb pike was big for a 15-year old boy, on a plug*



*Pike played an important part in our Rookery catches*



*How we kids used to fish in the 1960's*

Bill Hill used to float fish bread paste from under the huge old Lebanon cedar tree on the West Bank in the early morning sun. He would arrive at sunrise on his pushbike and ask us kids what we had caught that night, he must have been over 80 then, but the fish he caught were legendary, a perfect gentleman who had large tench, roach, perch and carp from that one swim, his swim! On opening day, Friday June 16th 1961, the local paper, The Bromley and Kentish Times, sent down a staff photographer to record the happy scene and the article was published the next week in the newspaper. Word must have got out about this fine elderly gentleman and his fishing prowess, as the photo showed Bill, Barry Graham and I fishing for roach under the specimen tree that hallowed morning! I recall from my fishing diary of that day that I caught 27 roach up to 1 lb 6ozs on hempseed, and 2 tench of 2 lbs each on worm. My huge yellow keepnet was bulging. Bill of course beat us all with larger roach and larger tench!



*June 16th 1961 - Bill Hill, Barry Graham and myself fishing for roach*

The photo above shows the old flint 'cloisters' in the distance, a Georgian folly built on the dam wall where visitors to the The Rookery estate could have taken afternoon tea and cakes beside the lake. Darwin would almost certainly have visited and perhaps Pit and Wilberforce.

The stream that feeds the lake is pure chalk stream and originates from Caesars Well at Keston Ponds 2 miles upstream. I have written in length before about Caesars Pool and this tiny river Ravensbourne runs north until it reaches the Rookery estate, then on 12 miles to the Thames at Deptford past Catford, and once another carp filled lake.

Some very eminent anglers have fished this lake in the past. Steve Edwards, Ken Rowley, Dave Rudd, Nick Papps, Kerry Payton, Geoff Keeble and Bob Skerritt, to name but a few. It is now a private carp syndicate water, a far cry from when I paid £5 5s (£5.25) a year to fish this club lake with 100 members in it. I was on the junior committee of the club, and we held our meetings in the hall at the Rose and Crown pub on Bromley Common, just up the road. Cyril Keeble was the secretary and Eric Renouff. the chairman.

The fishing was good until the great freeze of 1963 when thick ice covered the lake for 4 months, December to April. Many fish died all over the country at that time, and it was never the same again, restocking had to take place. We kids walked and skated on the lake in Jan and Feb 1963 with the ice over a foot thick as all fishing came to a halt. I lived in Hayes in those days and walked across the fields to the lake in snow over 2 feet deep, you wouldn't have believed what that winter was like!

Half way up the lake near the big cedar tree is the old pump house where water was pumped up to the house centuries ago. We, as young kids, used to sometimes camp in there overnight and be up at dawn to catch the roach and tench. Big chub up to nearly 4lbs used to lurk under the bushes around the island and floating crust used to secure the odd fish if we were lucky and quiet. 4-5 lb wild commons usually got there first but it was exciting fishing "off the top" as they call it today with our brand new Mk1V carp rods by B. James of Ealing.

In later years when the carp syndicate took over, Steve Edwards and his mates had many good carp to over 20lbs, Kerry Payton and Chris Haswell too. These were not of course the original stock, as large mirrors did not feature when I last fished the lake in 1966. Quite what the fishing situation is nowadays I don't know, but the Rookery is where I learnt my fishing 60 years ago now and still holds a particular affection for me in all the water that I have fished over the years. Steve and Chris are sadly no longer with us, but they too would have considered the Rookery one of their most loved lakes.



*Steve and Kerry Payton weighing a big carp from the Rookery*



*The cloisters at the Rookery*



*Steve Edwards with 22lb carp from the Rookery*

Bob Skerritt from Homesdale Road, Bromley and his girl friend of the time Jackie Hutton used to arrive on their 500cc Triumph motor bike and park it safely in the old cloisters prior to an evening's fishing for crucian carp. We met there every evening in the summer of '61 and fished by torchlight until 11pm catching 10-20lbs bags of roach, tench and carp on float fished bread flake pressed into a cube by red and green bait press. I remember that I left at that time too, crossing the darkened fields alone on my old bike at the age of 15, with no concern at all, how times have changed!

We first went all night fishing on the Medway from the age of 13, four of us with not a care in the world, camping under the stars or in one of the old war time pill boxes that adorned the river near the locks. Bream and eels at night and roach and dace by day, 20lbs bags of them, we didn't half smell by the time we got home! We were dropped off for days at a time by anyone who had a car, happy freedom days, you couldn't do it nowadays at that age, our Mothers wouldn't let us!

One day at the Rookery we found a submerged suitcase full of contraband which had been thrown over the surrounding fence, full of silver plates, perfume and the like. We hid it all in the bushes with a view to telling someone one day, but it was all stolen again before we got the chance!

I lost a lot of tackle from the Rookery Pump house which was locked overnight by me, my new best Mitchell Prince reels and a rod. A right den of iniquity that place was, but magical fishing right out of a Mr Crabtree book!



*Bob Rolph*

# Medway Man

## Bob Morris

I really can't believe that it is already time to start wishing everybody, particularly the readers of this column, a Merry Christmas once again. I really do hope that we can get through this period without need for any further form of restrictions on our activities - although looking at the current news from Europe, where Covid 19 (the Delta variant) has recently re-emerged with a vengeance we certainly can't afford to rule anything out. With so many of our population now double and even triple jabbed it must give us a fighting chance of keeping ahead of events - let's hope so!



*Lovely pike for Bob!*

they number eight in total for the season, two hook pulls, six missed and I have also had a few dropped takes - which may have been from eels, as I did get one of around three pounds last week.

These losses / misses are quite acceptable, as overall, I have not noticed any difference in this percentage compared to when I used to fish conventionally with treble hooks - which now seems like a long time ago. Also some of the missed takes are then followed by a capture, which may mean that the same fish was responsible and just got lucky the first time. Along with the great benefits of not having to worry about trebles getting caught in your hands, clothing or landing



*Eels can be responsible for dropped takes*

nets, there is another advantage that I have discovered and that is that it is much easier to store and carry the single hook rigs as they are more economic on space and far less likely to tangle and get caught up when removing them. It just keeps getting better!!!

One advantage of fishing for the pike on flowing water is that I can often get a few hours in pursuit of chub, barbel, carp etc, after

Back on the fishing trail! I have been doing a spot of piking and a bit of river stuff and often combining the two where possible - as conditions dictate. As yet, I have not bumped into any large pike, but having had about twenty fish now including a dozen or so doubles, I am reasonably happy with my results. Best, so far, is just over seventeen pounds and the majority have fallen to small Mackerel / Herring sections fished on one of my single hook (I no longer use treble hooks) hair rigged set-ups.

The beauty of this method is that I have yet to hook a pike anywhere other than in the scissors - which of course makes the unhooking process a lot easier. Having said that, I still find that it is advisable to use a glove when approaching the business end of a pike, as accidents will always find a way of happening! As far as lost or missed takes go,



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

dark in the same area, if it is appropriate. The mild autumn to date has encouraged me to do this and I am happy to report that some good catches of chub, including several five pounders, have come my way recently. Sometimes a blank afternoon on the pike front has been followed by several enjoyable hours after dark. Chub, in particular, often get active at dusk and if you are in the right spot you can frequently see them hitting the surface which can often indicate that a feeding spell is about to start. It is a nice way to round off a day's fishing.



All set for an evening's chubbing



Single hook traces - easier to store

*I was hoping to include a Piscatorial Politics episode this month based on the progress of the Government's Environment Bill and in particular the Duke of Wellington amendment that was due back in the Commons for a vote last week, but in spite of being in touch with our local MP and following the issue closely, I lost track of it due to domestic issues and will have to report on it next time!*

*It really is such an important issue for us all.*

Best Fishes + Best Christmas Wishes  
 Bob Morris

Due to various technical problems - 'some completely self inflicted' I am experiencing problems in receiving inquiries via the website at the moment. While I am sorting this out, could I please ask anyone who is having any trouble contacting me to email or phone me direct.

All the numbers and contact info remain the same.

Thanks

Bob M \*\*\*\*\*

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**Many thanks also to the many magazine subscribers for their kind donations!**

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

It does not seem possible that another year has almost passed and the Christmas holidays are here once again. I do hope that you have all had a great year's fishing and are looking forward to all those angling adventures to come in the New Year! It has certainly been a busy year so a big Thank You to all of you who have sent in your catch photos, reports and news during the last twelve months. There have been some amazing fish caught during 2021 so well done to all those who have caught a new PB or even anglers who have caught their very first fish! Who knows, 2022 may well see you catch an even bigger specimen so we look forward to your photos in the near future!

I would like to thank Pallatrax who have donated prizes each month and they will be continuing their support next year so you may well be in with a chance of being a winner in 2022! This section is made possible by the kind sponsorship of the businesses listed above so I am sure you would like to join me by thanking each and every one of them for their help and generous support of the Junior Informer. If you have a business and would also like to be a Junior Informer sponsor then please do get in touch with us, we would love to hear from you!

No doubt many of you will have written up your Christmas present list and I am sure fishing tackle may well be high on your list. I do hope that Santa has room on his sleigh for all those rods and reels! Let us hope that the weather will be kind for us over Christmas and you are able to get out on the banks and beaches during the holiday period. There is still some great fishing to be had which is better than being indoors in front of the television!

*A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all! See you in January!*

### Callum has the sea fishing bug!

Proud dad, Wayne James sent in this report for son Callum:



"Hi Barry,  
Please can you give a mention  
to my son Callum? On a 3 hour  
session at Dymchurch he  
managed to catch a dog fish,  
one eel and two baby rays!  
All new fish for him as well and  
he's definitely got the sea  
fishing bug. He had his birthday  
recently so he's going to be  
very happy with his new tackle!"  
Regards, Wayne

**Well done Callum  
and Happy Birthday!**

### Birthday fish for Sydney!

Delighted dad Rob Smith  
sent in this report after a  
successful fishing  
session with daughter  
Sydney:

"Hi Barry, I just thought I'd  
send you some pictures of  
my daughter's 48hr session  
on my Kent club water.  
Nine year old Sydney  
Fenelon Smith had three



carp on her birthday session,  
a new PB with a 20lbs 3ozs  
fully scaled followed by a  
15lbs fully scaled and a  
13lbs common. Doing the  
business was a glugged  
15mm Essential IB balanced  
wafter fished over Cell  
boilies." Thanks, Rob Smith

### Tommy leads the way!

Bill Armour sent in this report after he and son Tommy enjoyed a session at Elphicks Fishery near Goudhurst: "Hello Barry. Just home from a nice little 24 hours session on Elphicks' Kettles lake with my 6 year old son Tommy. The fishing was slow to start with, but Tommy bagged a couple around midday of 13lbs and 10lbs. He also had plenty of large roach and perch on the float as well."



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## WINNERS

Roman Back's  
first fish!

Donny Daniels,  
Beare Green

The two lucky winners for NOVEMBER  
*well done!*



Amy Matthews at Majors Lake, Bearsted



Corey Potter - 16lbs Mericks Fishery



Molly Cooke at Cottingham Lakes



Finlay Parker - 5lbs 2ozs



Casey Hogben and first fish!



Becky Bates- 13lbs Club Water



George Bartholomew and his first carp!



4lb 8oz



6lb 3oz

## Well done Alfie!

Proud mum Leah Botting sent in this report after her son Alfie and dad Alex had a great fishing trip to Claygate Lakes near Marden:

Leah told us: "Alfie, aged 6, and his Dad Alex love fishing at Claygate Lakes! Alfie, who has Autism, enjoyed this trip when he landed carp of 6lbs 8ozs, 6lbs 3ozs and bream of 4lbs 8ozs from Lake Sophie.



6lb 8oz



Alfie and Dad Alex





# Fishing for Schools – 2021 Review

by instructor Warren White

***I would like to start by saying what a special year we have had in 2021 working with our schools and mental health and disability groups.***

***Although it has been challenging due to Covid, the flip side of this is that I have never known a time when so many people want to get outdoors and have a go at fishing, probably due to having to lockdown earlier in the year.***

Huge thanks go out to the fisheries we use, Grove Farm at Hadlow College, Monk Lakes and the T.W.A.P.S club waters, for their ongoing support, it needs to be remembered that our fisheries are an important cog in a successful angling coaching operation.

We had four schools in this year's intake, Thamesview school at Gravesend, Meadowfield school at Sittingbourne, The Malling school at Maidstone and Cornwallis school, Maidstone. These schools were the lucky ones as, so often in Kent and elsewhere, the courses are always oversubscribed in the application process that takes place the year before the courses start. The schools that are chosen are given funding to do four sessions where they are taught a combination of Coarse and Fly fishing by our licenced and qualified angling coaches. The combination of learning coarse and fly fishing makes our courses quite unique!



**Ruby from Cornwallis Academy**



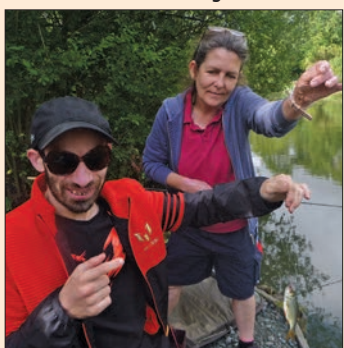
**Malling School angler**

see more of our school students come through our angling courses and then go on to Hadlow college which is rewarding for us and them and great to see.

One branch of the coaching work that we do that is rewarding to the instructors, and something the participants love to do, is working with our mental health and disability groups. After the last couple of years of living through the issues with Covid, there has never been a time that our mental health groups have wanted to get outdoors and get on with their fishing. Once things started opening up this Spring we were able to start working with our three mental health groups - The Trevor Gibbens NHS Trust, Charlton Athletic and Community and Choice Support. I cannot emphasize how important fishing is to people with mental health conditions, it gets them outdoors in a healthy environment, doing something they love and builds confidence and well being in their lives.



**Charlton student**



**Choice Support**



**Trevor Gibbens**



**Thamesview school student**



**Reece from Meadowfield**

During the participation on our courses, the young people learn about fishing while taking the Cast Awards, an Angling Trust skills programme that the pupils and schools like because it is a structured course with students attaining certificates for each level of competence. They then progress from this and the schools' have the opportunity to choose an official angling qualification, such as BTEC Fisheries. From this year's school courses we have had some really positive feedback from the students and teachers which is always encouraging and nice to know. A special mention and thanks to the Cobtree Trust and the Kent Community Foundation who have helped to fund the school courses in 2021.

Due to the eagerness of many schools to join our Fishing programme, we have some that come forward willing to pay for their own sessions. This year we had The Maidstone and Malling Alternative Provision and Rowhill school, Longfield who did just that because they recognise and have seen the benefits of students going fishing, but need the right guidance.

From my personal point of view, the main thing I like the young people to get out of our course, is to enjoy themselves in a fun way and to become better anglers and hopefully take up fishing as a hobby, then join a club. However, a crucial element is that it can provide the students with the ability and opportunity to progress from our courses to an Angling qualification such as BTEC. Once the students leave school, they are then well placed to advance to attend Hadlow College to do a course in fisheries and hopefully go on to be employed within the angling industry. Each year we



**Meadowfield students**

## Coaches

*I would sincerely like to give thanks to David Evans and Bob Goble the other two coaches who are part of the Fishing for Schools Team. Throughout a very testing year living with Covid, we have managed to complete all our sessions with our schools and mental health groups and have had some wonderful feedback from the participants.*

# Fishing for Schools Annual Kent Art Competition

by founder Charles Jardine and Kent instructor Warren White



**Warren said "This year I was not going to go ahead with the Art Competition as earlier in the year there were strict Covid guidelines about paper cross contamination" but as restrictions eased, I decided to go ahead with the competition, which I believe was good for the spirits of our students.**

**We ended up having a great turn out of pictures and some wonderful entries.**

**At present the pictures are on show at Grove Farm Fishery, Hadlow college.**

Fishing for Schools founder, Charles Jardine commented on the Annual Art competition: **"One of the greatest pleasures – and an annual one – is to receive notification from Warren White – our Kent lead coach – that the art competition entries have been submitted."**

"For me, personally, it is a real thrill and a glorious celebration of what we do at Fishing for Schools."



The winning entry



Joint second place



Joint second place



Entries selection board

Having had art as a constant thread through my life, to have young people still want to put brush, pencil, crayon and just about anything else on to a surface is a validation of everything we try to encompass in our programme. We don't just fish! We don't just take people fishing.

Also, it is visual proof that young people still want; and are hungry to be 'creative'. Just as much and as vibrantly as ever they were. Judging it, now, that really has been a tough one. This year particularly, the standard and width of the images, have been magnificent. I just hope I have 'called it' correctly.

There is an amazing image of the head of a carp. I overlooked it; I so wish I hadn't. Such talent but that is the constant thread: talent. Also, a love of creativity, of angling and of making images.

**The best bit is that we get to do it all over again next year.** But I think that these images are worthy of a wider audience, don't you? I feel a Fishing for Schools exhibition coming on!"

**Charles Jardine**

# TROUT INFORMER

## Tenterden Trout Waters

Tenterden, Kent

We recently stocked some quality Rainbows and Blues ranging in size from 3lbs - 8lbs for our Anglers to enjoy their Winter Fishing. The Trout have been active and producing some good action as you can see from the photos, some healthy Rainbows have been caught on Lake 3. Lakes 1 & 2 have also been stocked with Rainbow Trout and we suggest you fish all 3 Lakes to get the maximum out of your visit to Tenterden. Popular Patterns are: Daddies, Montana, Blue Flash Damsel. Our Trout are feisty and fight hard which all adds to the fun of fishing here. The Autumn has been late this year and produced some great colours at the Fishery and the weather has been perfect for fishing, not too bright and cold. The cold nights have made the Trout active so fishing has been good in November and we hope that continues into December and January.

**The Fishery will be closed for Christmas from the 24 December and will re-open on the 1 January 2022.** Our Lakeside Fishery Lodge is open for you to enjoy providing tea/coffee with our compliments. We have great facilities with kitchen/dining/sofa, toilet and lakeside balcony where you can relax. All this adds to a good fishing experience for friends and family at Tenterden. Please call or email [gaynor@coombe-farm.com](mailto:gaynor@coombe-farm.com) 01580 763201 to book your fishing. If we don't answer please leave a message, name and number and we will get back to you asap. We will limit our numbers to 12 Anglers fishing at any one time to create the space you all need. Our booking system facilitates this well and we will continue to use it from now on.

**Stay & Fish** Our Shepherds Hut accommodation is open for both Anglers who wish to stay and fish and for other guests who just welcome a short break away. If a staycation is of interest to you then we are offering 20% off our permit prices if you stay in our Ghillies Hut. For more info discover our 'Shepherds Hut' heading on our website with a direct link to Airbnb. Fishing Tuition can be booked direct with Richard Stokes, our Instructor, please email [richard@coombe-farm.com](mailto:richard@coombe-farm.com). It is always fun to learn new things in life and you can purchase a lesson as a gift voucher experience for someone special this Christmas. For an up-to-date fishing report please go to our website: [www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk](http://www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk) and click on News/Fishing Report. 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 and a Trout Master Water. We offer Gift Vouchers for that special present this Christmas which can be purchased by bank transfer, cheque or cash. Please call Gaynor on 01580 763201 or email: [gaynor@coombe-farm.com](mailto:gaynor@coombe-farm.com) - we can email/send them out for you.

**We would like to wish all our Anglers and Fishery Friends a very Happy Christmas and New Year and thank you for all the support you have shown us throughout the pandemic. We look forward to welcoming you here for some exciting Winter fishing over the festive season and into 2022.**

**Tight Lines - Gaynor, Richard, Audrey, Alastair & Emma**

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David Bray with his 7lbs Rainbow



Peter Beeny with his fine  
6lbs 9oz Rainbow

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## Brick Farm Lakes

Herstmonceux, East Sussex



Frank Bloomfield - 5lb 2oz

The last month has seen some more fine fish being caught, and many happy anglers. Lessons are continuing to be popular. Please see the Coaching page at [www.brickfarmlakes.co.uk](http://www.brickfarmlakes.co.uk) for details of some of the coaches who teach here. With Christmas coming, please do give us a call at the Lodge on **01323 832615** to purchase vouchers in either fish ticket size or monetary value - with no expiry they make a fantastic Christmas gift! We have some group days coming up, but do still have availability in the coming months so if you are interested in a team event, a work party or even just a few friends catching up with some good sport (including coaching if necessary) and nice food, please contact us for bespoke days.

On the fishing front, the weather is continuing to be kind to us with much cooler water. Cats Whiskers and Zonkers have been catching well - with both floating and intermediate lines being successful with varying retrieves. The Brick Farm team were victorious at a recent inter-fishery League match at Chalybeate Springs - we look forward to welcoming them here for the return match in a couple of weeks. Regular angler Frank Bloomfield was pleased with a nice 5lb 2oz Rainbow, followed by a 4lb 6oz to complete his bag! - it seems that each month he and his daughter are chasing one another so let's see if Isabella can top his fish again next month! Other notable catches of recent include James Bianchi who recorded at 6lb 8oz, Nick Littleton who was thrilled with a nice 5lb 8oz, and Mr Clarke has seen some nice sized bags recently including one last week of 5 fish for 14lb.

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*Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman*

# Lure Fishing

## On tour - lure fishing reservoirs and guiding

***I've had a busy time fishing Bewl Water, Pitsford, Raventhorpe and Rutland over the last few weeks. I've had the pleasure of guiding several anglers on these big waters, anglers who wish to improve their lure fishing skills and knowledge, while targeting perch, pike and zander.***



*Ice jigs stay close to the bottom in the strike zone at all times and perch find them irresistible*

The strike zone shrinks and sinks down towards the bottom. The predator's ability to see our lures is now reduced to maybe 5ft from either side and as they are less active so they will no longer rise up to intercept a lure. This illustrates perfectly why cold water lure fishing requires so much more concentration than at other times of the year. Repeated accurate casts must be made close to the previous one; if the fish won't move to our lures then we must make sure our lures move closer to them, on each and every cast! Your retrieve must be slow keeping your lure close to the bottom throughout the entire retrieve, with an occasional pause to trigger a take from any following predators.

With so many must have lures on the market, it's very confusing for new lure anglers to know where to start or what to buy. This is the main question I get asked when guiding. I'm not going to try and cover every situation or lure style in this article, it would take a book, but I will give you an insight into how you should approach the cold water lure fishing season ahead. As I mentioned, I've been fishing several large trout reservoirs which are home to populations of predators. The appeal of fishing these challenging waters is the unknown; the fact that we don't know exactly what swims in these waters is an exciting prospect!

### Strike Zone

It's vital to know how the water temperature affects the fish's behaviour. As the water cools the cold blooded fish's metabolism slows down. This is a very important concept to understand as it will help you successfully target predators throughout the year. So what is a strike zone?

Imagine the water temperature is 15 degrees centigrade and the water is fairly clear, perfect conditions for predator fishing. It would be reasonable to expect predators to see our lures from 20ft from either side and as they are active they might well rise up through the water column to intercept a lure from 20ft below, that's the strike zone. Now imagine what happens in the autumn as the water cools to 10 degrees and is also coloured.



*Fox Rage Pro Grubs can be fine-tuned by adding your own weight*



*Kuusamo spoons, don't go afloat without them!*

## Depth and speed control

It's vital to pick lure weights that suit the depth of water you're fishing. Pick just enough weight to cast the required distance and sink slowly enough to reach the bottom, expect takes "on the drop" during this slow sinking period. When boat fishing, to get our lures into the strike zone quickly we will often increase jig weights. This extra weight also allows us to use faster retrieves while keeping the lure close to the bottom, this is necessary when we are in a drifting boat, a tactic we use as we explore large areas of water trying to locate feeding fish.

## Lure choice

Now we understand what the strike zone is and how it affects the predator's behaviour. You should now realise that lures that sink are what's required as they will track close to the bottom at slow speeds. The only exception to fishing sinking lures would be if you fish shallow waters, less than 10ft, that contain lots of snags or heavy weed cover. In this situation shallow divingfloating or suspending minnow plugs might be a better choice.



*A surprise capture on a Strike Pro Astro Vibe-bait*



## GUIDED LURE & FLY FISHING DAYS WITH ANDY LUSH

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

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

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

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

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

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



Soft plastic lures are perfect for our needs as they can be rigged on jig hooks carrying whatever weight is necessary. When I'm drifting then a variety of shads rigged on 10 - 20g jig heads will suffice unless I'm fishing water over 20ft. If I anchor up then I can reduce the weight which allows for a more subtle approach. I also use a lot of spoons at this time of year, these almost forgotten lures are still very effective, pike haven't lost their appetite for these flashy wobbling baits. I always carry a good selection of Kuusamo Professor Spoons in a variety of weights to suit the depth and sink speed I require.

## Strategy - where to start?

As a reservoir boat angler to locate fish I adopt a searching approach, if trolling is allowed this would be my first choice as it allows me to cover water quickly. Otherwise casting lures from a drifting boat still allows me to cover large expanses of water but with a little more subtlety. Every cast is into new water which potentially holds fish. With the aid of an echo sounder I'm trying not only to find baitfish, but, I'm also looking for features, structures that might attract shoals of perch and zander. Pike are attracted to these structures too because they hold food fish. Once found it can often be worth anchoring up and systematically casting around the feature.

If you pay attention to where your lure is on each and every cast and explore each swim you will catch more fish. A confident angler catches more fish!



*Tight lines - Andy Lush*

# Sea Informer

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The current sea temperature (at the time of writing) is around 12 degrees which is around the average for this time of year. The sea remains fairly clear and this has influenced the fishing with mackerel and scad still being caught, although not in huge numbers. What has been noted is the large numbers of squid being caught! The conditions need to be right for this type of fishing and you need the special 'squid jigs', but it is an exciting and different method to try. Many anglers have now discovered squid fishing and are really enjoying catching either for the table (they make excellent eating!) or for the bait freezer. There have been a few codling caught, although not in any quantity, but they have to be quick to beat the huge numbers of whiting and dogfish to the bait. The whiting now seem to have spread further around the coast and are now being caught wherever there is sea water! However, some better size specimens are among their numbers. As we progress through December and into January the number of rays will begin to increase.

Thames report courtesy of Wayne May

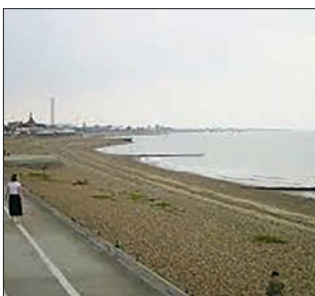


"Greenhithe and The QE2 bridge has been up and down recently, fishing has been slow with the odd night a few whiting showing, perseverance will still land you the occasional fatty, plenty of bait changes recommended to keep the scent flowing. Gravesend is slightly better this month with more whiting and a few bass earlier in the month, temperatures should start dropping soon bringing in the larger whiting. Thames estuary fishing has been similar, getting the right tide will produce several fish, then fishing drops off again, beginning of the month saw plenty of larger bass caught from boat and shore. I've not heard much relating to reasonable codling at the moment, as we are still experiencing warmer weather than usual, whiting are better in size closer to the estuary and within the estuary compared to the river, definitely worth taking a trip at the moment if you wish to target larger specimens."

**NJ Fishing Tackle at Gravesend stock fresh (when available) and frozen baits and a good range of tackle. Call 01474 353998.**

## Medway report

The outer stretches of the Medway have seen plenty of whiting, some bass and a few rays. The flounders are now beginning to show along with a few mullet. **Call Medway Tackle Supplies for all your bait and tackle requirements on 01634 475260.**



## Sheppey report courtesy of Sheppey Angling

"The fishing has picked up recently and anglers are finding a good selection of fish from most island marks. The Garrison is fishing well and worth the walk, the Swale is full of fish with plenty of bass, whiting, dogfish and some rays. Queenborough wall is producing bass, whiting and dogfish. Generally, good numbers of dabs and flounders are now beginning to show along with increased numbers of rays, bass, whiting and dogfish. Most baits are working well and worms seem to be catching a good variety of fish. It is highly advisable to pre-order worm baits to ensure availability. We do carry a good range of frozen baits in stock."

**Call Sheppey Angling on 01795 661089 for all your bait and tackle requirements and top local advice and tips.**

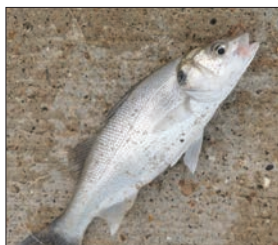


## North Kent report

Fishing is still pretty good along this stretch of the Kent coast. The bass are still present along with the occasional ray. The Whitstable and Tankerton stretch and along to Herne Bay is producing school bass, whiting, dogfish and the dabs and flounders are now beginning to show in better numbers. **Absolute Tackle at Herne Common have a good range of fresh (when available) and frozen baits and a wide range of tackle. Call 01227 636724.**

## Thanet report courtesy of Fishermen's Corner

"Seems the whiting have arrived in numbers!! The advantage of a lot of the Thanet marks is that you can potentially avoid the numbers by fishing daylight or sticking to shallow venues and targeting bass and flatfish. Lugworm, fresh or frozen, is proving the bait of choice and accounting for most fish caught."



For any advice,  
bait or tackle  
contact  
**Fisherman's  
Corner**  
01843 582174

## Deal report courtesy of Channel Angling Deal

"At the moment there are plenty of whiting to be caught on both pier and beach with the dogfish still showing up. There are bass still showing up on the bottom deck of the pier and the odd ray starting to show. Still some congers surprising a few anglers! Squid seem to be the latest species with quite a few getting caught on luminous squid jigs from beach and the pier. It's best to fish for them in the dark bouncing your jig along the bottom on a very slow retrieve. Dabs are showing up towards the Sandown area with some nice ones well over the 30 cms size. So a good variety of fish about, but wrap up warm it's cold and enjoy your fishing!" **Call Channel Angling Deal on 01304 373104 for all your bait requirements and top local advice.**



## Dover report

The trial day on the Admiralty was a huge success as you may have read in the November magazine and updates on future fishing are now awaited. Although nothing has been confirmed, all those involved in its organisation (DHB and DSAA) were more than happy with the day's event. Watch this space! Shakespeare beach has been producing bass, whiting, pouting, dogfish and the occasional ray. What has also been caught in good numbers is squid! Although calm conditions and good water clarity are needed, good numbers of squid have been taken by anglers using the special squid jigs with some anglers catching over 20 in a session! If you fancy a go at this exciting method, give Craig at Channel Angling a call! **Call Channel Angling on 01304 203742.**

## Folkestone report courtesy of Folkestone Angling

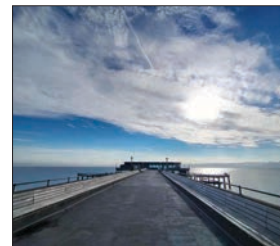
"The fishing from the pier and local beaches has been very good with plenty of fish reported. The pier is throwing up a huge variety of species including lots of whiting, many of a good size, dogfish, pouting, dabs, the odd sole and occasional ray. Bass, wrasse and scad are being taken down the wall on baits and artificials. There are still mackerel being caught depending on conditions and water clarity! A recent Martin Walter club event on the pier saw a 4lbs codling amongst the many fish weighed in. The beach is fishing well and again depending on conditions and water clarity, lots of squid are being caught! Anglers are also still finding plenty of bass to 5lbs with many still taking lures."

**Folkestone Angling can be found at the end of Tontine Street just a few minutes walk from the pier. Remember to purchase your fishing tickets from the shop before fishing! Call 01303 253881.**

## Hythe area report courtesy of Steve Bates

"As always, Dymchurch, Hythe and Folkestone have been fishing really well, there has been a good stamp of fish being caught with some good mixed catches being reported. With Autumn in full swing and a few good South westerly blows stirring things up a bit, the whiting are here in big numbers with anglers reporting catches of sizeable fish, they are a great tasting fish and make great fish cakes if you have never tried them, eating them also helps to soften the blow of just catching them all night. Some anglers have still been targeting the plaice with some success, although not big they are still there. The odd decent bass is still being caught, worm baits fished at various distances will give you as much chance as the next angler at finding some of the better fish. Also trying a live small whiting or pouting behind the breakers into darkness is a must if the conditions are right. Over last few weeks when the weather has been settled, some anglers have been out making the most the squid coming close to the shore to feed over the reefs along at Sandgate, there have been some big catches of these majestic species and they make great sport. Pulley pennels baited with fish baits or squid should help you find the rays which will show at all states of the tide and fresh or frozen lug on clipped down rigs or flappers should help you find most other species. Big shout out to the angler who caught the small six gill shark, what an awesome and memorable catch, it just goes to show you have to be in it to win it as you just never know what will turn up!"

**Local tackle shops are Dens Tackle 01303 267053 and Best Buddies 01303 487144** keep safe, stay well and remember to take your rubbish home. Tight lines, Stevie.



Authorised Agent





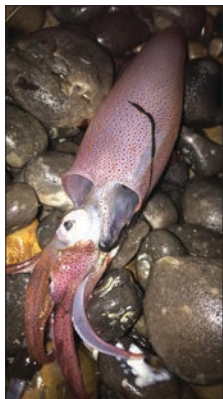
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### Eastbourne area report courtesy of Tony's Tackle

"The past month has been nothing short of incredible fishing from Eastbourne beaches with 3 hour matches throwing up huge numbers of fish. Chris Kirrage and Paul King grabbing most of the glory both with back to back match wins. Paul landed a 12lbs conger in an Anderida match and Chris a 4lbs 12ozs ray in a Nomads match with the increase of entry money and good turnouts of 18 plus Chris, with over 14lbs picked up £90. Dave Howell landed a 45cms plaice from the Skate Park on lug. The over 50s match saw over 40 dogfish weighed in a 4 hour daytime match at Langney Point which has produced countless soles, two coalfish landed by a junior angler Keeley Moule. Good size bass from White Horses and Pevensey beaches and the whiting have arrived at last, but seem to be bigger than normal. Countless other species caught including dabs, flounders, soles, plaice, conger eels, rays, bass, big whiting and large pouting. Everything will eat black lug so it is well worth dusting off the rods with long tides and night fishing favourite. Tony's Tackle runs a species hunt £10 entry at the shop and it goes on for a month. Juniors are free to enter and can win any category plus a donated prize from Tony's Tackle. All monies are paid out. Call Tony on 07821 514853. Eastbourne boats have been productive catching bream, bass and rays from the Light Tower area. A few turbot from the banks and some cod showing on local wrecks. Still plenty of huge mackerel being caught on feathers. Panther and Excalibur Lance Brown have both reported good fishing this month from deep water marks. I expect the beach fishing to stay exceptional until after Christmas when it may slow down a little."

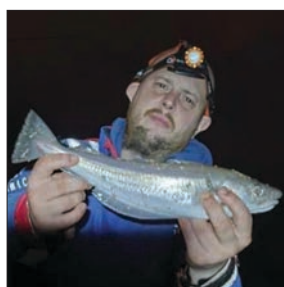
**If you need black lug or ragworm call the shop on 01323 731388 or 07821 514853. My new book will be out in November, it features boat and beach angling all over the world and the history of 48 years in the shop! Tight lines from Tony Kirrage [www.tonystackleshop.co.uk](http://www.tonystackleshop.co.uk)**



### Worthing area report courtesy of Prime Angling

"Reasonable numbers of squid returned from Worthing Pier mainly during darkness and Brighton Marina has also produced squid which can be caught both during daylight and darkness. Usual squid jigs fished whilst the sea is calm with good clarity are ideal conditions and they should hang around for a couple more weeks depending on the weather. Whiting have seemingly moved inshore now in vast numbers from Worthing, Shoreham and East Sussex venues mostly during darkness. Despite the whiting increase some venues mainly west of Worthing have yet to see them arrive 'en masse' and it is possible to avoid them but for how long? Match on Worthing Pier early last week saw anglers catching 30 plus whiting each! As already stated during the past week daytime catches still produce a variety of summer species which have yet to depart. Garfish are still around in fairly decent numbers and have been showing from Worthing Pier, Brighton Marina and float fishing from Shoreham Arms is also likely to see a few Gars. The occasional mackerel are showing but the large shoals seem to have now left with just a few stragglers remaining and a few decent shad have been caught although they are a protected species and must be returned alive. Golden Grey Mullet have shown from the West Arm at Shoreham and the odd fish from the beach. Other species include Black Bream and Gurnards and a superb Gurnard of nearly 3lb was caught from Langley Point, Eastbourne during a beach competition. The summer species may continue to linger inshore depending on the weather for a few weeks yet providing the sea remains calm and clear. A Coalfish was caught from the Marina and a few small fish have shown this year whereas usually they are an extremely rare catch locally. Bass continue to show with plenty of sizeable fish caught locally and they are still responding to most baits and even lures when conditions are good mainly from Brighton area. Baits such as worms and live prawns have seen reasonable sized fish to 4lbs with the occasional better size fish taken on live baits such as Whiting or Pouts and Tony Hocking caught a very nice Bass of over 9lbs fishing live baits. The lower reaches of both the Adur and Arun usually hold some very big fish at this time of the year and definitely worth trying especially in darkness. A double figure Bass is always a possibility at this time of year. Not much in the way of Congers this week with a few small straps caught but nothing massive although with the Whiting shoals arriving and if the water colours up enough some of the bigger fish usually respond to Whiting used as live bait or even as whole fillets. Worthing Pier is always noted for the larger sized eels although other venues such as Shoreham Harbour, Brighton Marina and local beaches can always produce when conditions allow. Now is the time of year when the larger eels are usually inshore and using whole Whiting or Mackerel baits should improve your chances of catching a better sized eel. Remember to "beef up" your tackle as well as taking a drop net if fishing from a structure. Dogfish have been caught throughout the region whilst fishing during darkness and some from the beaches which have held colour such as East Preston producing a few during daylight too. Selsey has seen extremely large numbers of Dogs caught by anglers targeting different species. A bonus Bull Huss is a possibility with a few regularly showing in amongst the Dogfish. Codling catches have certainly dropped off lately with a small fish caught from Brighton Marina although as stated recently the inshore netters are still getting good fish close in so hopefully they will be encouraged to venture in within casting distance. Undulate Ray reports are scarce with the occasional fish reported but certainly few and far between. Likely venues to catch one would be Shoreham through to Brighton although they can show from anywhere when they are about and size can certainly vary. The occasional Thornback is showing to fish baits. Encouraging to see a few Flounders reported from the beaches as well as both the River Arun and Adur. The bigger fish do seem to be caught from the beaches at the moment with the river fish on the small size. Beaches such as Seaford and Shoreham have also seen some good Flounders caught again to worm baits. Plaice of various sizes are still showing from Shoreham through to Brighton although the quantity and quality do seem to be dropping. Expect the bigger fish to return around February. Dab numbers are on the increase mainly from East Sussex and although Soles seem to thinning out a few fish remain and still being caught. **Prime Angling is open as usual, 7 days a week, 8am to 5pm Monday to Saturday and 8am till 4pm on Sundays. We are located at 26 Marine Parade, Worthing, BN11 3PT, situated just to the east of Worthing Pier with limited customer parking available at the front of the shop.**

**If you require fresh bait it is advisable to phone us on 01903 821594 to pre order depending on availability and as early as possible to avoid disappointment.** We also stock a large variety of frozen sea baits. Also as the seasons change plenty of new stock is arriving so pop in or keep an eye on our Facebook page. Also with Christmas fast approaching it is worth remembering we stock gift vouchers which make an ideal Christmas gift."



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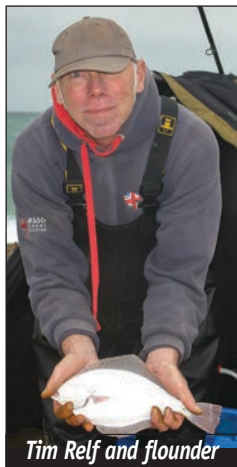
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Tim Relf and flounder

## HASTINGS ANGLING CENTRE 2020 OPEN

Postponed from last year due to Covid, the 2020 Hastings Angling Centre Open took place last Saturday. The sea was very clear after several days of calm light northerly winds and swung to the south west on Saturday morning and by the time the match finished mid-afternoon was blowing quite hard and had kicked up a big surf. Unfortunately the late arrival of the wind and coinciding with one of the biggest high tides of the year meant that it did not have enough time to colour up and bring the fish in. The rough sea also put off the species that like calm and clear! The result was very hard fishing with only nine anglers managing to weigh in. The winner was **Kelly Jay Carter** fishing at the New Church with 3 fish for 1lb 6ozs picking up the £300 first prize. Runner up was **Neil Marsh** fishing at the Bathing pool with 2 flatfish for 1lb 3ozs picking up £180 and £30 for top club angler. Third overall was **Tim Relf** fishing at the bottom of the club catching the biggest fish of the day a flounder of 1lb picking up £130 and 2nd best club angler £20 and a Penn 525 multiplier.

### Section A

1st	Ralph Crosby	10.8ozs	£100
2nd	Rex Palmer	10.7ozs	£70

### B Section

1st	Phil Lee	7.6ozs	£100
2nd	Brett Green	6.5ozs	£70

### C Section

1st	Colin Crosby	8.8ozs	£100
2nd	Billy Johnson	7.8ozs	£70



Nick May - plaice

## HASTINGS ANGLING CENTRE 2021 OPEN

Yet again the weather was unkind and fishing was very tough with clear water and very light winds. Even the mackerel were still about in numbers! Clear winner on the day fishing at the New Church (B Section) was **Dave Falk** with 6 fish for 3lbs 13ozs who also had the best fish a bass of 44cms. Dave picked up the £300 first prize and a Penn multiplier sponsored by Hastings Angling Centre. Runner up was **Nick May** fishing on peg 3 at the harbour (A Section) with 2 plaice for 1lb 0oz 6dr picking up £180 and top club angler prize of £30. Third overall was **David Pinchbeck** fishing at the old Bathing pool (C Section) with a flounder of 1lb exactly picking up £130.

### A Section

1st	Dan Woods	13.1ozs	£100
2nd	Tim Relf	06.2ozs	£90 (and 2nd club member)

### B Section

1st	Eddie Ryder	1lb 0oz	£100
2nd	Rex Palmer	15.5ozs	£70

### C Section

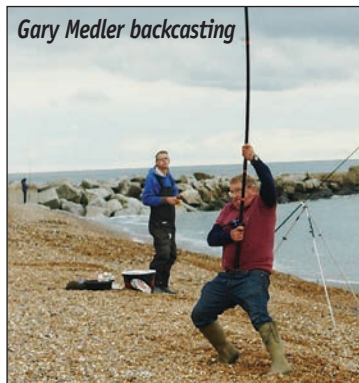
1st	Ralph Crosby	12.3ozs	£100
2nd	Julian French	07.3ozs	£70



Dave Falk - Winner

## HASTINGS TWO DAY BEACH FESTIVAL SPONSORED BY HASTINGS ANGLING CENTRE

Two very contrasting days for this year's two day festival. Saturday was calm and very mild with a very light wind, the sea was still fairly coloured after the midweek gale. Conditions were certainly to the whittings' fancy and there was the first really good show of them this season. Some very good bags were caught with flatties and pout making up most of the rest with a few dogfish and bass as well. Winner on the day was **Colin Crosby** with 44 fish and a weight of 20lbs 14ozs coming from B SECTION at the New Church.



Gary Medler backcasting



Winners Colin and Martin



Winners

Martin Humphries  
conger eel

### A-SECTION

1st	Andy Hurcombe	10lbs 11ozs
2nd	Gary Medler	9lbs 15ozs
3rd	Joe Croxon	9lbs 8ozs

**Heaviest fish** - Julian French BASS 44cms

### B - SECTION

1st	Colin Crosby	20lbs 14ozs
2nd	Ralph Crosby	18lbs 4ozs
3rd	Richard Yates	15lbs 9ozs

**1st Club member** Colin Crosby 20lbs 14ozs

### C - SECTION

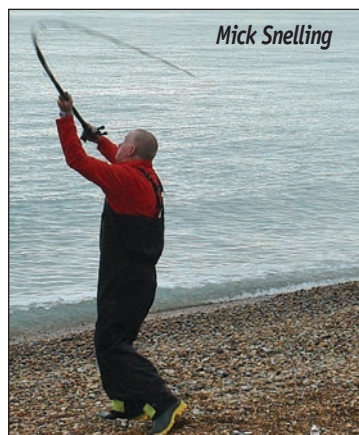
1st	Julian French	14lbs 1oz
2nd	Brett Cotter	13lbs 7ozs
3rd	Mick Cox	10lbs 14ozs

### D - SECTION

1st	Martin Humphries	18lbs 7ozs
2nd	Ian Reynolds	16lbs 1oz
3rd	Steve Swan 1	1lbs 4ozs

**2nd** Ralph Crosby 18lbs 4ozs

On the Sunday the wind had got up with a fresh southerly blowing 4-5 but still mild. The sea had chopped up considerably but the surf hadn't had long enough to put a lot of colour in water. It was sufficiently rough though to push the whittings, or more likely the whitebait and sprats they were eating, out into deeper calmer water. The result was very few fish were caught with only 15 anglers weighing in. What was also different were the three conger eels caught, the best going 14lbs 7ozs for **Martin Humphries**, who not surprisingly was also winner on the day with 16lbs 14ozs from peg 2. The other two congers landed were **Dave Reed's** 6lbs 8ozs and **Ian Reynolds** 3lbs 12ozs



Mick Snelling

Ralph Crosby  
and sole

### A SECTION

1st	Martin Humphries	16lbs 14ozs
2nd	Dave Reed	6lbs 8ozs
3rd	Steve Swan	2lbs 9ozs

### C SECTION

1st	Ralph Crosby	1lb 5ozs
2nd	Billy Johnson	1lb 4ozs

### B SECTION

1st	Jacob Gainey	6lbs 3ozs
2nd	Ian Reynolds	4lbs 4ozs

### D SECTION

1st	Mick Snelling	11ozs
2nd	Colin Crosby	8ozs

**Top club angler:** 1st Ralph Crosby 1lb 5ozs 2nd Billy Johnson 1lb 4ozs

The overall winner of the two day festival with the heaviest bag on any one day was **Colin Crosby** with 20lbs 14ozs collecting the £300 first prize.

A Big thank you to Martyn Kemp of HASTINGS ANGLING CENTRE AND HASTINGS AND ST LEONARDS ANGLING ASSOCIATION for supporting this year's event again and of course Mark Rogers for all his efforts put into the weekend.

## Sandgate Squid Session by Richard Smith

A couple of weeks ago I was deep in thought at work after seeing a few reports on social media regarding squid catches from the beach in the Sandgate area. As soon as I had finished work, I headed straight home to have a look in the depths of my tackle box to see if I had any squid jigs hiding amongst my lures. Much to my surprise I had four of them so the excitement was building up already!

I took a look outside and checked the weather reports and the weather looked spot on to target some squid. The moon was shining brightly, it was a crisp, cold evening with no movement from the trees, and no form of breeze. I dug out my Penn Regiment 9ft spinning rod and matched it up with a Shimano FX 2500 reel and spooled up with some fresh 8lb mono line. I then attached a fluorocarbon leader to the main line and had a snap link to attach the squid jig. I was pretty much ready to go and suddenly I remembered I hadn't charged up my head torch, I checked to see if I had enough time and put it on charge. I also remembered I had a small UV torch in my lure bag. What a result! I headed off down the motorway picking up my friend Russell Kite on the way. We arrived at the car park, by Sandgate Castle about 9.15pm and walked along the promenade, past the castle to find a decent spot to target the species.



What I will tell you is that I have only ever caught squid from Brighton Marina and the Weymouth area, never have I targeted them from the beach and certainly not from around the Kent Coast. When we arrived, there were only a few other anglers to be seen, so we were able to choose our spot. We set up our spinning rods and clipped on our first jigs, weighing 3.5g. I then grabbed the UV torch and started to charge up the jig, and within a minute or two it was ready to go, all illuminated ready to entice the squid with a decent illumination. The weather was looking perfect and the water clarity was clear and only a gentle breeze off of our right shoulders. We cast out as far as we could to start with and had no takes for the first six or seven times. On the eighth time of casting, I had retrieved the jig half way through the water and my rod tip pulled round to the left with a gentle tug and I thought 'Yes!! Here we go!' Unfortunately, I struck the rod and lost whatever had taken an interest, such a disappointment. I recast the same jig out again which was still illuminated and the same take happened, exactly the same as the previous retrieve - half way through the water with a gentle tug to the left but this time as I reeled in gently, I could feel the weight of what had latched on to the jig. I tried not to get too excited, until I saw what it was! I shone my head torch down onto the shingle by the waters edge, to see my first squid landed!

Its tentacles were hooked on securely to the jig - What a strange but beautiful creature. I could see its body changing colour before my eyes, strange little dots coming and going, from white to a red/brown colour - mesmerising!! Time was ticking away with less than an hour before the top of the tide and I was feeling anxious about getting the squid off the jig, the jig was recharged and cast back into the water. The next four casts all produced squid, again each retrieve was exactly the same with the gentle tug to the left. Russ also managed to catch two squid, just over high water having the same retrieval as mine. I was over the moon that I managed to catch five beautiful squid to take home to feed the family! Once the tide had dropped by two hours we packed up feeling very satisfied that we had achieved our target species. We headed back home around 1am and I couldn't wait to start editing the footage that I had filmed of the evening but thought it best to wait until the morning! Over the next few days, it got me thinking about catching more of this fantastic specie, so I arranged another night of Squid fishing with my good friends Stevie Bates and Brian Stew. Brian gave me a lift to meet Stevie down at Sandgate. Upon arrival around 9.30pm at Sandgate, the beach was lit up with anglers almost every 15 yards along the beach and I must admit I didn't think that we would get a space. The conditions looked perfect once again with a flat calm sea and no wind, but it was a bit more over cast than the previous evening. High tide was at 11.30pm. All three of us tried our best over four hours of casting and retrieving, but I was out of luck this time round. I tried different techniques, casting at distance and in close, at different angles, but nothing to show. Brian on the other hand managed to catch two and Stevie managed to get one too, and I was really pleased to see they had managed to catch their target. It just proves no two tides are the same! Best of luck to all anglers targeting Squid for the short time that they are around.

Tight lines!

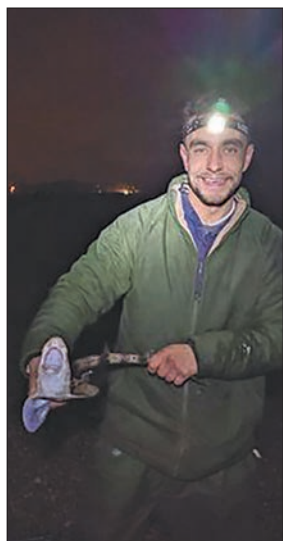
Richard Smith, Salty Hooks Fishing UK.



**Salty  
Hooks  
Fishing  
UK**

## Joe let the dogs out!

Sam Jarvis sent in this report after a recent session with cousin Joe:  
"I took my cousin Joe Jarvis fishing recently. It was his first proper time and he would love it if he could feature in the mag. We started off in Dungeness but it was far too rough so we drove to Hythe. He was well chuffed with this dogfish!"



## Squid ahoy for Rupert and Simon!

Simon Green sent in these photos following a session with son Rupert. It was their first session targeting squid and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience which I am sure will be repeated very soon!



*Wishing you all a  
Merry Christmas and a successful  
New Year!*

## DUNGENESS Latest catch reports on [www.seagullfishingtackle.com](http://www.seagullfishingtackle.com)

Well time flies...here we are in December, but the sea is still warm, over thirteen degrees in the eastern channel. Climate Change is having its effect, summer species staying longer, so in some ways is December the new October or November? Not seen any winter storms yet so no masses of washed up food inshore for the cod to come to the beaches to feed on, yes, I still think there are a few left down south so time will tell. Plenty of bass in the meantime so keep smiling

**BEACH REPORT** Fishing has been a bit patchy, I'm not sure if it's the anglers or the fish, but I have had some great reports.



### What a cracking fish!

**I had this report in from Janet Baker:**

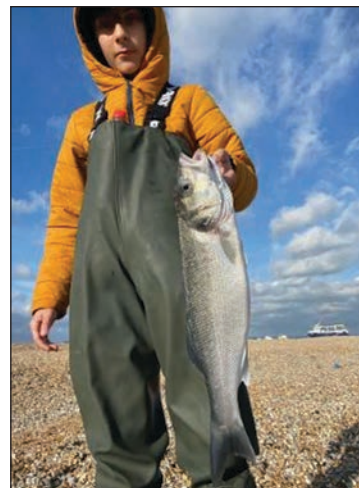
"Hi Tony. Thought I'd share this pic of my mate Kip, who caught this lovely bass at Dungeness beach weighing a grand 6lbs 4oz."

### Don't forget to smile Charlie

**Just had this report in from Rob Bower, another cracking bass:**

"Hi Tony. We fished the boats at Dungeness for my son's birthday.

Weather was a bit rough but 1 hour after high tide my son Charlie caught this lovely 5lbs bass after a cracking bite, lugworm tipped with squid. Also had a few whiting and plenty of dog fish. Cheers Rob & Charlie.



### What a pair for Adam

**I saw this report by Adam Goldie:**

"2 bites, 2 fish, on the first and last casts, 6.5lbs and 9.5lbs, fished 1.5 down and 1.5 up in heavy surf. Both fish taken on mackerel presented on a single paternoster, with 30lbs snood and a 5/0 Hayabusa, cast at around 15m out using a Cinnetic Retail power surf 360 and Shimano Ultegra 5500s. Both fish put up great fights in the surf on the smaller rods, and took a bit to land, but I wish I could have stayed longer."

### You don't see one of those every day!

**This report from Dave Wood-Brignal:**

"When I arrived home yesterday evening I walked up the beach to see what the conditions were like. It was close to high water and every wave was full of weed. I looked on xc and saw there was a window of opportunity over high water Saturday evening. Wind was dropping and switching west. Then switching back sw in early hrs. I headed to venue a bit

earlier just to make sure the wind had done what I thought it would. I wasn't disappointed the sea and swells seemed pretty clear of weed. Baits were prepared and cast out, worm on a 2 hook loop to catch whiting for live bait and a whole mackerel on the other. Whiting were easy to catch so I set a 3rd rod up and slid a small whiting out. Within 10 mins this was taken by a bass of 50cms weighing just over 3lbs. Good start.....! An hour later I had a classic cod bite on my bait catching rod. I had to play this fish very carefully as I

only had size 4 Aberdeen match hooks on. The bite said cod, the fight said cod. I was a tad surprised when a conger came ashore. It was a chunky fish and weighed 13lbs 10ozs. A new shore PB for me and landed on size 4 aberdeen match hooks from Cox and Rawle. It was a great evening's fishing plenty of species and fish."



### On a bright Sunny day

**I saw this reported by my mate Steve Field...that well known whiting specialist...!**

"Those that like whiting, plenty of chunky ones at Littlestone. Only kept the deep hooked, it was manic, non stop over high water. Biggest was almost 35cm, nice for the frying pan. All on frozen bait on a bright sunny autumn day."

### Matt's day went with a bang

**I had this report in last night from Matt Phillips last night:**

"Fished Dungeness in lovely conditions. Pretty quiet for a while then got hit by a nice bass, 48 and a bit cm... Then the tiniest greediest whiting who couldn't quite fit the bait in its gob, great morning."

**Tony added: "If I'm right the photo shows a Allis Shad a much rarer fish than a bass...one of the herring family**

**that spawns in fresh water. A protected species (I'm told very good to eat) should be returned...but a very nice fish, well done...my best one many years ago was 2 1/2 LB at Dengemarsh."**



### Another nice 'Allis' for Kenneth

**I had this report in from Kenneth England, interesting how many late season shad are being reported, well it is mild and the sea temperature is still around 12 to 14 degrees: "Allis Shad, caught on spinner, protected so returned."**





### Kristian fishing Hythe

**I had this report in and yes frozen lug works:**

"Hi Tony. Just wanted to let you know I fished at Hythe this morning using some frozen Lug and Squid I had. Only had a few bites but had one cracking bite and caught a nice 34cms plaice. Regards, Kristian."

### Great report from Adam!

**I saw this excellent 'local' report from Adam Goldie:**

"Been trying at Hythe and Sandgate for a few sessions now, keeping the faith and refusing to go west, and they did finally show up, and a nice stamp too. All taken on a savage gear lure, that I honestly thought was a bit OTT with its rubbery legs."



**BEACH OUTLOOK FOR DECEMBER** Its all down to the weather Gods! We need some winter storms to stir things up to get the winter species moving.

**BEST BAITS** You have a choice, big or small. Big baits for a bass (or cod) like a lug squid cocktail or small baits like lug tipped with a sliver of shellfish aimed at flatties.

### BOAT REPORTS

#### At last, some good luck!

**I had this report in this morning from Anthony out on Peganina (07989778361), not this time from Rye:**

"A massive congratulations to Simon for landing Peganina's first blue fin tuna (measured 300lb)! It was recovered, tagged and released under our licence with the CHART programme, and swam away lovely and strong. It was a very special day for the boat!! Thank you to everyone who has helped me and the boat get to this point - I couldn't have done it on my own! Unfortunately the tuna didn't come from the Rye area though - we have gone west a bit. Normal operations will resume after tuna season ends on 14th!"



### A nice report from Jem Oiller

**I saw this report from Jem Oiller:**

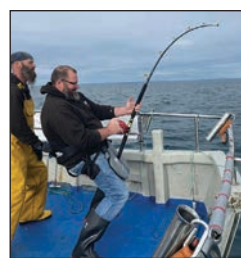
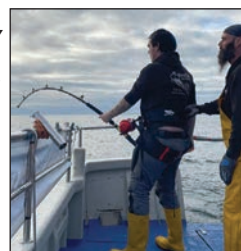
"Fairchance fishing Dungeness 01797 363544 Today. A Beautiful day to be afloat, The Fishing was hard going, 2 or 3 Thornbacks for Dave Foggy Robinson, a few Mackerel, Tub Gurnards, Grater Weavers, Squid and dogfish the only thing there was plenty of were illegal immigrants, they kept coming all day. Happy Days."

#### End of term report from Anthony

**As the first Chart (Cefas) Tuna season ends, here is Anthony's summing up from Peganina (07989778361) ...a wonderful experience:**



"So what a weekend the boat has had - smashed our new target of 30 by 3 fish!! Amazing team effort, on Saturday we hooked 11, leadered 9 and had two double hook ups. Nigel has fished all around the world and he said that was the best tuna fishing he has ever seen! The fish were literally everywhere you looked! Sunday we leadered 7, the fish weren't feeding as hard but by then me and Geoff were in full swing after what I can only describe as what has probably been the best 9 days charting in my life!! CHART has been an amazing project and a real team effort, proving what can be achieved if we work together moving forward. Hopefully they will run it next year and it will be bigger and better again!"

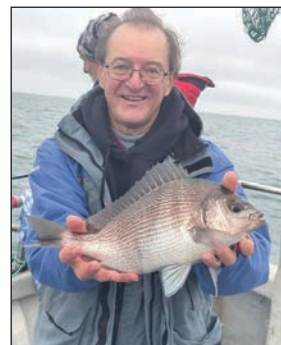


### They were squids in!

**I saw this posted by Simon Newman after a great day afloat with Jem Oiller on Fairchance launching from Dungeness:** "Out first squid fishing boat trip of the winter today. We tried 3 areas and caught in all three but the fishing was steady rather than hectic, apart from one crazy 5 minutes when Andy Moxon caught 3 in one go (3 jigs on) , Colin had a double shot and I had one. All at the same time! In all we caught 25 between us. A good average size probably averaging 350 grammes with the biggest about 500g. We also caught 2 good cuttlefish, one of which re painted the side of Jerry's wheelhouse a lovely mottled black! All in all a lovely day afloat and I'll be booking a couple more dates for the next set of neap tides."

### Nice to see Ant back

**I had this report from Anthony out on Peganina (07989778361) from Rye, nice to see some quality black bream still about:**  
"Plenty of bream, still good stamp too."



**BOAT OUTLOOK FOR DECEMBER** As I said in the beach bit, it comes down to the weather and will we get some 'blows', the water is gin clear, great for wrecks and 'sight' hunters. If we get some colour in the water, we will see what else is about to take a bait on the bottom?

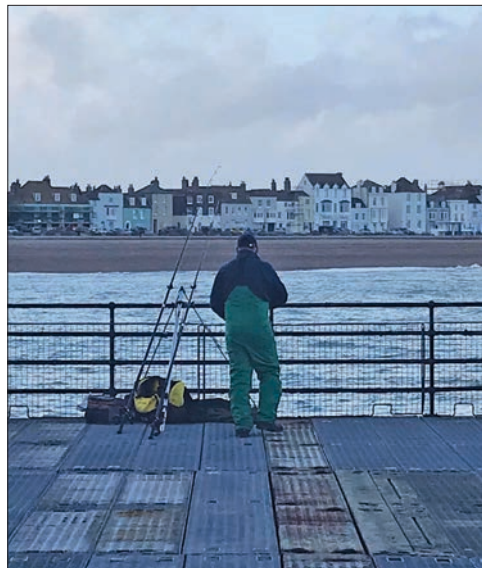
**BEST BAITS** It depends on what you want to target, my choice a nice bit (or two) of squid.

## OUT AND ABOUT WITH ANDY by Andrew Cook

### A REUNION WITH AN OLD FRIEND!

After last weeks trip to West Sussex the general consensus from 'the gang' was to stay local this week, so myself, Paul Hunter, and Paul Evans agreed on a bit of a general session on Dover's Shakespeare Beach.

Now, the weather forecast for the Dover area a week ago was Westerlies gusting to 20mph which would have been fine, but during the week the forecast took a significant turn for the worse, shifting to SW and strengthening to 35. Nevertheless, we agreed to 'take a look'. I 'took a look' at 2pm on the day and it was pretty clear that any optimism had been wasted, ten foot breakers, white water everywhere, and the swell bouncing off the Admiralty creating an unfishable maelstrom of water. So before 'The Pauls' even arrived the message went out 'DIVERT TO DEAL'!



After the 20 minute run into Deal I'm at the pier car park looking at a flat and little coloured sea, it's amazing what a difference there is. Although I haven't fished here for a while, Deal Pier is an old favourite of mine. Fish wise, she's a bit unpredictable, and can be a tackle graveyard if you don't know where to fish, but I've fished her lots of times and as long as we can get where we want then tackle losses can be kept to a minimum, unfortunately this didn't happen! Paul E. arrives and we make our way onto the pier, the lower deck is fairly busy and despite not being able to get one of my favourite spots there's still plenty of room. Paul H arrives and we get set up for the session.

Two rods for me as usual, one with the trusty pulley rig alternating squid, mackerel and bluey, the other a two hook flapper with lug and rag. Ten minutes in and I've saved a blank already, a nice bite results in a 41cms bass. Paul H had to wait a little longer for his Saturday lunch as back it goes. After that it's a steady stream of dogfish until HW, we're actually hoping for a conger, or maybe the outside chance of a bull huss as both have recently been caught on the pier. The tide turns and darkness arrives, as do the whiting, most of them are pretty large so Paul H. keeps a few. Paul E. did have a cracking pull down earlier, but the fish didn't connect with the hooks. A few of the local lads arrive and after having a chat with them the advice is the congers are close to the pier so we are dropping big baits and live baiting whiting straight over the side. After just a few minutes Paul E. sees his rod tip nod and his line rapidly moving inshore so he leans into whatever is taking a large live whiting for a ride. Sadly again the fish isn't hooked and all he retrieves is said large whiting bitten clean in half.

A few minutes later and I see a couple of decent nods on my half a whiting dead bait. I lift into the fish which again is decent, but it's immediately snagged me up on the debris on the sea bed. I leave it for 10 minutes alternately applying pressure then giving it line but there's no moving it and eventually I snap off. Paul H. also has a decent bite but his line parts, probably due to the rough ground we were fishing last week.

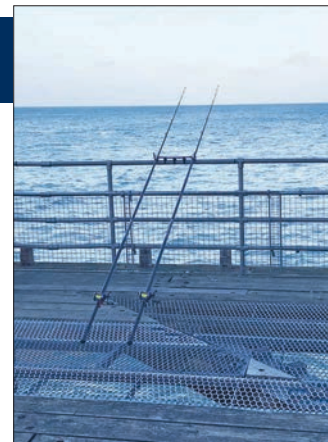


9pm and packing up is definitely starting to enter my mind when I see Paul E. putting a decent bend in his rod. At first he thinks he's snagged but then the 'snag' starts to move. A few minutes later and he's got a fairly decent, but rather angry conger on the surface. We will need Paul H's new drop net but we haven't set it up! Cue a comical five minutes with myself and Paul basically fighting each other as we try and undo the badly knotted rope. We finally get enough rope free to net the fish and up it comes. Weighed at 5lbs exactly, a quick picture and back it goes slipping immediately down to the bottom. Well done mate.

We give it another hour but with only a few rattles from smaller fish pulling at our big baits we decide to call it a day at 10pm. Not a great session for me personally but we've all had enough fish to keep us busy. Given the number of takes we had just by dropping big baits and live baits over the side after dark there seem to be plenty of decent congers down there, but they are very tricky to get off the bottom as it's pretty snaggy and I've lost a few sets of gear.

Good luck if you are out over the weekend. I'm not out next week as night work will once again get in the way of my fishing! Probably over the island in two weeks time for a go at the bigger rays that should start to show.

*Tight lines all, Andy*



## HASTINGS report courtesy of Hastings Angling Centre

November has been a difficult month off the beach with calm sea much of the time and very few fish about during the day, except for mackerel and bass on lures. This has proved very testing for the match fishermen – see match reports.

In the boats fishing has been good with plenty of black bream and bass still about especially over rough ground, even the odd cod. Pollack on the wrecks. Some very good bull huss also on the rough ground have also been caught.



*Cod - Martyn*

Prospects for December, the bass season finished on 30th November, it will be catch return only until March. Most of the better fish move off though for spawning so really best left alone to do their thing. The sea is still very warm given the mild autumn we've had so far so I expect the black bream (and mackerel) will be about until the New Year. The concentration of the pollack on the wrecks seems to depend on the abundance of the herring and sprat shoals, if there are lots about then they tend to disperse feeding more. The warm water will keep the bull huss, tope, rays and conger eels active until the New Year. The short days though does restrict angling activity. On the beach we could do with some decent SW winds to colour up the sea and bring the whiting and soles on.



*Mark Fairhurst - Bull Huss*

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## KENT BOAT REPORT

by Jason Parrott

pennel rig with 4/0 Koike wide mouth hooks. Now comes the science, do you use a long trace or short? I prefer a trace up to 12ft for bass, but on the boat I stagger them depending on tide and anglers. I do like the bait to have movement. We have used different 'glow in the dark' attractors, they seem to work but I don't change things if they are not broken! If the fish are not taking the worms, we switch to the live baits. I like to hook them just through the dorsal fin and wrap the top hook close to the bottom, 3 or 4 turns around hook. These are the same rigs we have been using all this year, we have had a great deal of success fishing this method. I think as the whiting are not here in force and the herring are just showing this is the main reason for our good hit rate, but it takes patience. On the boat we try, if not too busy, I try to have 2 extra rods so anglers can carry on with their normal fishing as well as live baiting.

On to the feathering, the exciting side to the bass fishing! We all have our special colour feathers, mine are blue rubber Shakespeare on a 50 lbs snood or Tronix Pro do similar ones, alternatively the Hookai version will work. All these can be obtained from most shops and I know that Fisherman's Corner at Ramsgate, Channel Angling, Dover and Medway Tackle at Gillingham all have a good selection to choose from. We all must do whatever we can to support our local tackle shops! We now have our feathers, so what about lures, pirks, call them what you will! I personally like Yans, very dear, but very good, my preferred size is generally 250gms, but most shiny lures/ dexter wedges work bit they need to be heavy and certainly of 125gms or more.



long time to learn! Once I see the birds hitting the water I will slowly go upside and drift through and usually achieve good results. Remember that retaining two bass ended at the end of November! Many anglers return all their fish even when retention is allowed, but it is personal choice. I want to mention the humble and often maligned whiting! In my opinion it is an underrated fish to catch and eat. A simple paternoster rig will do, or any rig to be honest. I like to have luminous beads on mine which also give a bit of buoyancy as well. I think the best tide state for them is when we are just coming up to the slack. You will get enough for a good feed for sure and the minimum size is 27cms. I prefer to retain at a larger size, over 35cms but you can decide if keeping. Fish baits are good with squid and 2 or 3 days old yellows. These fish will eat most baits presented on a little 1/0 hook. It doesn't have to be any special hooks for this and they can be tied to 20 lb hook line, away you go, keeps the kids (and some adults) happy for hours!

The smoothounds have finally gone, thank you we salute you and hope to see you again next year for some more fine battles! Our largest this year was 18lbs 13ozs which was down on last year, but we had more in numbers. The skate are still missing in action, but as a famous actor once said "I will be back!" The dabs seem to be making a come back and these tasty little fish can be caught on most rigs. I just like a spreader with 1/0 hooks, 9 inch hook length with green and black beads. Bait wise I find 5 day old yellows work well so just wait for the rattles on very light rods!

Now to something a bit different, feathering for herring! If this doesn't bring back the kid in you nothing will! Wait for the slack water and clear water, Sabuki feathers with up to 8 hooks in any colour, but red is my favourite with a tiny green bead on hook and away you go. Just wait for the rod to start shaking, do not pick up the rod too fast, simply work the feathers very slowly up and down on the bottom or mid water wherever the shoals are. You will probably have a full house on, but usually only land 2 or 3 as a rule. You will catch whiting, bass and sandeels and I even had a dogfish the other day! This is proper fishing so when you are sitting at home thinking there is no point of going on a charter boat, just remember the good times and support your local boats and their skippers. A good skipper will always try and find the fish for you, they might not always be Pbs, but we will give you a good day out!

*Dawn and I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

**Tight lines from all at Lady Ann of Ramsgate, Jason**

**If you fancy a day afloat with Jason on the lady Ann give him a call on 07966 273650.**

**Another month slips by and the weather still seems to be 'tropical' and the elusive 'unicorns', or as they used to be known cod, are still not here in any numbers, but I do want to add that a couple have been caught off Ramsgate on charter boats. Why are these creatures so mythical? I see local shore anglers driving all over the country to find them, that's dedication, Nath Didds, Rhys Caleno, good luck to you boys!!**

How can we continue with life without the cod I hear you say, we must, but there is hope for a while yet as silver bars, the bass, have been abundant! What a great month, no big fish, but averaging 1.5kgs to 3kgs and in good numbers, hallelujah! It's worth getting out of bed in the morning. I do like to pump my own worms and wrap them for these lively fish usually using a running leger with 40 lbs hook line and a



Finding the fish is down to the skipper! We all have some special favoured spots which fish well at different times. I know when the time is close at some locations as the birds start looking, I will not divulge any more (!), it has taken me a



**Coarse Fisheries**

<b>Beaver Farm Fishery</b> Eastbourne Road Newchapel, Lingfield RH7 6HL	<b>01342 324006 / 07710 656041</b>
<b>Charlies Lakes</b> Steeds Lane, Kingsnorth, Ashford TN26 1NH	<b>07857 539785</b>
<b>Chequertree Trout and Coarse Fishery</b> Bethersden, Near Ashford TN26 3JR	<b>01233 820078</b>
<b>Coombe Wood Fishery</b> Redbrook Street High Halden, Near Ashford TN26 3JH	<b>07895 679569</b>
<b>Elphicks Fisheries</b> Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden TN12 8EL	<b>01580 212512</b>
<b>Eureka Fishery</b> Nicholas Road Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN25 4AG	<b>07597 879621</b>
<b>Frant Lakes</b> Hawkenbury Road Bells Yew Green, Tunbridge Wells TN3 9AP	<b>01892 616424</b>
<b>Furnace Brook Fishery and Fish Farm</b> Trolliloes, Cowbeech, near Hailsham BN27 4QR	<b>01435 830835</b>
<b>Gabriels Fishery</b> Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP	<b>07730 066088</b>
<b>Greenacres Farm Fishery</b> Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden TN27 8EH	<b>07933 934942</b>
<b>Hartley Lands Fishery</b> Swattenden Lane, Cranbrook TN17 3PS	<b>07703 825064</b>
<b>Hawkhurst Fish Farm</b> Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	<b>01580 753813</b>
<b>Horam Manor Fishery</b> Horam Manor Farm Horam TN21 0JB	<b>01323 840889 / 07707 759364</b>
<b>Iden Wood Fishery</b> Coldharbour Lane Iden, Rye TN31 7UT	<b>01797 280180 / 07906 232225</b>
<b>Knightingales Fishery</b> Stone-In-Oxney, Near Tenterden TN30 7HA	<b>07941 176205</b>
<b>Kube Lakes</b> 65-87 Plurenden Road, High Halden, Ashford TN26 3JW (nearest postcode) @KubeLakes on Facebook	<b>07742 423681</b>
<b>Latchetts Lakes</b> Tanyard Lane Furners Green, Uckfield TN22 3RL	<b>07517 646299 or 07793 654174</b>
<b>Mousehole Lakes</b> Maidstone Road Nettlestead, Near Paddock Wood ME18 5HR	<b>07725 783405</b>
<b>Orchard Place Farm Fishery</b> Pearsons Green Road Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6NY	<b>01892 838576</b>
<b>Sandwich Lakes Coarse Fishery</b> Sandwich Ash Road (A257) Near Canterbury CT3 2DA	<b>07936 409912</b>
<b>Shirkoak Fishery</b> Bethersden Road, Woodchurch, Ashford TN26 3PZ	<b>07973 410973</b>
<b>The Lakes at Beachborough</b> Beachborough Park Newington, Near Folkestone CT18 8BW	<b>07469 809877</b>
<b>Tricklebrook Fishery</b> Colts Hill, Five Oak Green TN12 6SH	<b>07743 955812</b>
<b>Wylands Farm</b> Powdermill Lane, Battle TN33 0SU	<b>01424 893394</b>

**Trout Fisheries**

<b>Brick Farm Lakes</b> Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux BN27 4RS	<b>01323 832615</b>
<b>Cinder Hill Fly Fishing</b> , Membership available from: Email: r.nathan@btinternet.com	<b>01892 770903</b>
<b>Coltsford Mill Trout Fishery &amp; Fly Tackle shop</b> Mill Lane, Oxted, Surrey RH8 9DG	<b>01883 715666 / 07798 605867</b>
<b>Duncton Mill Trout Fishery</b> Dye House Lane, Duncton, Petworth GU28 0LF	<b>07855 822401</b>
<b>Spring Hill Trout Waters</b> Albans Farm, Romford Road, Pembury TN2 4BB	<b>07951 304515</b>
<b>Tenterden Trout Waters</b> Coombe Farm Chennell Park Road, Tenterden TN30 6XA	<b>01580 763201</b>

**Tackle & Bait Supplies**

<b>Absolute Tackle</b> 12 Wealden Forest Park Herne Common, Kent CT6 7LQ	<b>01227 636724 / 07809 330854</b>
<b>Angling Specialist (ASH)</b> 29 Queen Street, Horsham RH13 5AA	<b>01403 264644</b>
<b>A.R. Tackle</b> 8 Castle Street, Hastings TN34 3DY	<b>01424 422094</b>
<b>Arun Angling Centre</b> The Old Blacksmiths Yard Water Lane, Angmering BN16 4EP	<b>01903 770099</b>

**Bank Side Tackle**

Wylands Farm, Powdermill Lane, Battle TN33 0SU	<b>07786 978476</b>
<b>Bodle Angling</b> Cuckfield Road, Burgess Hill RH15 8RE	<b>01444 247757</b>
<b>Camos Carp Cabin</b> 11 Turner Street, Ramsgate CT11 8NJ	<b>01843 581784</b>
<b>Channel Angling</b> 158-160 Snargate Street, Dover CT17 9BZ	<b>01304 203742</b>
<b>Crowborough Tackle</b> Shop 2, Lexden Lodge Crowborough Hill, Crowborough TN6 2EG	<b>01892 667671</b>
<b>Dens Tackle</b> 73 Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6JN	<b>01303 267053</b>
<b>Eastbourne Aquarium &amp; Reptile Centre</b> 19-21 Seaside, Eastbourne BN21 3PP	<b>01323 730635</b>
<b>Gabriels Fishery Tackle Shop</b> Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 5PP	<b>07730 066088</b>
<b>Henfold Bait &amp; Tackle</b> Henfold Lakes Henfold Lane, Newdigate, Dorking RH5 4RW	<b>07956 043922</b>
<b>Jack Frost</b> Reynolds Place, West Green, Crawley RH11 7HB	<b>01293 521186</b>
<b>Just Fishing Tackle</b> 22 Marion Crescent, Orpington BR5 2DD	<b>01689 637477</b>
<b>Kent Tackle</b> Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	<b>01580 754422</b>
<b>Medway Tackle Supplies</b> 11 Twydall Green, Gillingham ME8 6JY	<b>01634 475260</b>
<b>NJ Tackle</b> 150 Milton Road, Gravesend DA12 2RG	<b>01474 353998</b>
<b>Orchard Tackle</b> 58 High Brooms Road Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9DB	<b>07494 670328</b>
<b>Polegate Angling Centre</b> Unit 7 Birch Industrial Estate, Eastbourne BN23 6PH	<b>01323 486379</b>
<b>Romney Angling</b> 59 High Street, New Romney TN28 8AH	<b>01797 362889</b>
<b>Sheppey Angling</b> Unit 5, Regis Business Park New Road, Sheerness, Kent ME12 1HA	<b>01795 661089</b>
<b>Shorties Tackle</b> Unit 16 The Glenmore Centre, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3FH	<b>07563 620368</b>
<b>SJG Fishing Baits</b> Based at Bromley, Kent Visit us at <a href="http://www.sjgfishingbaits.co.uk">www.sjgfishingbaits.co.uk</a>	<b>07925 700467</b>
<b>South London Angling Centre</b> 286 Lee High Road, London SE13 5PJ	<b>0208 852 4451</b>
<b>Sues Tackle Cabin</b> The Spice Warehouse Rye Harbour Road, Rye TN31 7TE	<b>01797 225015 / 07980 290247</b>
<b>Tony's Tackle Shop</b> , 211, Seaside Road, Eastbourne BN22 7NP	<b>01323 731388</b>
<b>Trade In Tackle</b> Maidstone Road Watlingbury ME18 5EH	<b>01622 814296 / 07941 085011</b>

**Angling Clubs & Societies**

<b>Bromley (Kent) &amp; District AS</b> PO Box 895, East Grinstead RH19 9ND email: <a href="mailto:bdas-kent-enquiry@bdaskent.co.uk">bdas-kent-enquiry@bdaskent.co.uk</a>	
<b>Cinder Hill Fly Fishing</b> Membership available from email: <a href="mailto:r.nathan@btinternet.com">r.nathan@btinternet.com</a>	<b>01892 770903</b>
<b>Hastings Bexhill &amp; District</b> Postal enquiries to: S. Corke 2 The Sidings, Bexhill On Sea TN40 1RF Chris Pagan <b>07429 655237 / Steve Potter 07935 268174</b>	
<b>Linton Angling Society</b> Jason Tuckey on or email: <a href="mailto:lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk">lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk</a>	<b>07983 569220</b>
<b>North Sussex Piscatorials</b> email: <a href="mailto:northsussexpiscatorials@gmail.com">northsussexpiscatorials@gmail.com</a> Parish Lane, Pease Pottage, Sussex RH10 5NY	<b>07824 443720</b>
<b>Tonbridge &amp; District A &amp; FPS</b> PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB	Martyn <b>07802 248802</b>
<b>Wantsum Angling Association</b> or contact via website <a href="http://www.wantsumaa.co.uk">www.wantsumaa.co.uk</a>	<b>01227 678063</b>

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