

JANUARY 2019

FRESHWATER INFORMER ^f

No. 266

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Hello and welcome to the January issue of the Freshwater Informer!

Well here we are at the start of another brand New Year! 2018 seemed to pass in a flash and no doubt 2019 will travel just as quickly. I do hope you all enjoyed a happy and peaceful Christmas period and managed to spend some time with family and friends. I am sure many of you will have sneaked out for a few hours fishing to blow the cobwebs away and to try out your presents from Santa! I was asked many times by family what do I want for Christmas? I really didn't know so my stock answer is usually Gift Vouchers which I can go out and spend when I am ready and see something I need. I always feel it a waste buying on impulse and regretting your purchase a few weeks later. Being the fussy type (!), I never ask for fishing tackle as this is one purchase I have to do myself. I like to go in the shops and pick up, have a play and a good look at my prospective item before parting with any money (or Gift Voucher!).

2018 was an often difficult period for our local tackle retailers with many citing internet sales as the main reason. I cannot stress enough to everyone that buying your items from your local tackle shop is so important in keeping this vital resource alive. I am amazed at how many people say they are so sad to see shop X closing and still purchase online. You will be surprised at the deals available at your local shop and many will price match the internet. It is sad to see West Malling Angling now closed but I sincerely wish Jeff a Happy Retirement and plenty of hours on the bank doing what he enjoys!

It is great to see lots of photos in the Junior Informer this month. I know how much the young anglers (and the older ones!) enjoy seeing themselves in print. It always seems to mean so much more than an image on a social media site that disappears within a few hours. Please keep all your Catch Photos coming either by email or Facebook messenger.

I took the magazine to the Sandown Carp Society Show at the end of November and had a thoroughly enjoyable weekend. It was my first time there and it was great to chat with so many people. I was really impressed with the relaxed, informal atmosphere that seemed to put visitors at ease. I managed to give away lots of notepads and pens which were well received.

I am trialling the River Informer section this month! I have mentioned previously here in the magazine and on the Facebook page how much I would like to see a dedicated rivers section. Please get in touch by sending your river reports, news, articles and match results that could appear in this new section.

If you run matches, why not send me your results? Lots of anglers like to see the local results and often ask me why I don't print them? The answer is if they aren't sent to me I am unable to publish them!

I would still like to see some more sponsors for the Junior Informer. As mentioned last month, you do not have to be a fishing business to be a sponsor but you are demonstrating that you are, like us, committed to junior angling. Being a sponsor is a very cost effective way of promoting your company and starts from just £100 for twelve months sponsorship during which time your company logo will appear at the top of the Junior page. I am always just at the end of the telephone line should you have any questions.

Don't forget that the contact details for the magazine have now changed. The new details are:

Office number: 01634 869317 Mobile number: 07722 025449 Email: barnic@btinternet.com

I sincerely wish you all a very Happy and Fishy New Year!

Enjoy your fishing, Barry Reed

The Freshwater Informer

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Fishery Reports

Elphicks Fisheries Horsmonden, Kent

NORTH LAKE is fishing well Perry Alabaster had commons of 26lb 6oz, 42lb 4oz and 34lb. He also had mirrors of 33lb 10oz, 23lb, 30lb, 26lb, 34lb 14oz, 29lb 8oz, 19lb 7oz and 32lb 8oz. Keith Sheward had mirrors of 22lb and 26lb and a common of 37lb. Joe Frigot had a common of 21lb and a 23lb mirror. Mark Sheward had a 35lb common and mirrors of 23lb, 33lb and 45lb.



North Lake



North Lake



North Lake - 47lb 8oz



North Lake

PLANTATION LAKE has been well. James Stevens had a 31lb, mirror and a 25lb, common Des Valentine had mirrors at 10lb, 17lb, 16lb, 26lb, 27lb, 33lb, Stu Munney had 2 commons 17lb, and 32lb, Des Valentine had 3 mirrors at 15lb, 34lb, 35lb, and a 20lb, Common, Jim Saunders had an 18lb, mirror and a 30lb, common.

PRAIRIE LAKE is fishing well. Cody Crockett had a 26lb mirror, Chris Smith had mirrors at 22lb and 23lb, Sean McCarthy had 26 carp up to 25lb, including 5x 20lb, Chris Gorman had a 36lb mirror, Adam Brown had 2 mirrors at 22lb, 24lb, and 2 Commons at 22lb, 26lb. Murray Pike had a 30lb 2oz mirror. Lee James had mirrors of 22lb, 29lb, 24lb and 31lb. Jason White had mirrors of 19lb, 18lb and 27lb.

SANDWICH LAKE is now predominantly carp ranging from 5lb to 15lb and is fishing well. Good numbers of carp being caught. Bottom Baits and surface baits both producing carp. Bream to 4lb and good sized Roach have started to put in an appearance. Mike Harrington had mirrors and commons at 5lb, 6lb, 8lb, 9lb, 12lb, 14lb, 17lb. Richard Farmer had 16 carp ranging from 5lb to 13lb using a small boilie and crushed boilies in a bag.

KETTLES LAKE is fishing well. Nick and Joe Semple had 28 carp including 1 at 19lb, 2 at 15lb, 2 at 16lb, 2 at 18lb, Mike Harrington had mirrors at 14lb, 26lb, and 2 commons at 18lb, Alan Farmer had commons at 14lb and 22lb, and mirrors at 15lb, and 21lb. David Farmer had a 18lb mirror, 14lb common, 20lb, grass carp, Alec Rigby had mirrors at 12lb, 15lb, 18lb and commons at 6lb, 11lb, 18lb, 19lb.



David Joyce 36lb 6oz
Pullens lake 11.18

PULLENS LAKE has fished well. Steve Smith had 2 mirrors at 28lb, and 42lb, Den Granger had a 29lb mirror, Richard Long had a 42lb mirror. Adam Kellas had a 34lb mirror. Lee Smith had carp of 30lb 8oz, 27lb. 4oz, 45lb 2oz, 36lb 3oz, 28lb 2oz, 29lb 1oz, 31lb 6oz, 48lb 6oz, 34lb 7oz. David Joyce had a mirror of 39lb 8oz.

WEST END LAKE has started to pick up as the weed dies back. Gary Cusack had a 47lb, mirror, Wayne Foster had a 38lb, mirror. David Swan 36lb and 41lb. Nigel Whale 49lb 8oz.

Nigel Whale - 49lb 8oz - Westend - 11.18



Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hawkhurst, Kent

MAIN AND DOVE LAKE: These lakes are currently closed for grounds maintenance. Both lakes will reopen on Friday 1st February 2019.

MATCH LAKE: Open for Matches booked only. Please contact us on 01580 753813 to book your matches for 2019. Dates are filling in fast so be sure to call now to avoid disappointment.

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

JUNIOR LAKES: Our 3 Junior Lakes are now closed until 16th February 2019 - just in time for the school's half term.

Waterside café: Our on-site café is now open (from 3rd January) for both breakfast and lunch service, 9am -4pm, 7 days a week.

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

Keep an eye on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/hawkhurstfishfarm and website www.hawkhurstfishfarm.co.uk for updates.

Gabriels Fishery Edenbridge, Kent



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*Happy New Year to all our visitors -
Wishing you tight lines and great new PB's!*



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SPECIMEN LAKE Remains open to Members only

MATCH LAKE Open for matches booked only

JUNIOR LAKES are closed until 16th February 2019

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Fishery Reports

Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

First and foremost Ben and I hope you all had a good Christmas and we wish you all a Happy new year!

We thought we would write a quick review of what has happened over the year.

January saw the first new stockies banked on Snipe Lake to just over 17lb. Also, we continued our on-going water treatment of Snipe Lake by completing another chalk/lime mix that was introduced into the lake to help the overall health of the lake. We also saw the first tench of the year landed on Eden Pond. Pike from Majors Lake were banked to just over 17lb. January also saw the opening of the newly stocked Daughters Lake and it didn't take long for the fish to be banked to mid doubles.

February saw plenty of carp banked on Snipe Lake to an impressive winter weight of 32-6. On Tuscany Lake the first cats were banked up to 36lb. Daughters Lake continued to fish well with the new stockies being banked. Majors Lake showed pike to 18lb 8oz. We also treated Moat Pond, Daughters Lake and Eden Pond with the chalk/lime mix to improve the water quality so we should see some benefits of this come spring time.

March saw Snipe Lake produce carp to mid 20's. Tuscany Lake produced cats to 68lb. The first Jeff's Lake Open of the year results were 1st 16lb 8oz, 2nd 13lb 6oz and 3rd 12lb 6oz. Daughters Lake produced more new stockies to mid doubles and grass carp to 16-08. Eden Pond produced perch to 2-08.

April saw Snipe Lake produce carp to 28-02. Tuscany Lake started to show plenty of cats to 68lb. April's Jeff's Lake Open results were 1st 83lb, 2nd 62lb and 3rd 60lb 4oz. Moat pond started to fish well with carp to 7lb. Daughters Lake continued its good form with carp to low doubles. Eden Pond saw the tench feeding well and being banked to 5lb. Majors Lake saw the carp wake up and they were banked to 19lb 14oz.

May saw Snipe Lake fish well with carp being banked to upper 20's and also saw the lake record broken when Matthew Rustermeyer landed the big mirror at 34lb 2oz. Tuscany Lake produced an amazing amount of catfish up to 70lb. This month's Jeff's Open Match results were 1st - Richard Williams with 49-02, 2nd - Harry Haggett with 46lb and 3rd - Mark Hathway with 36lb. Moat Pond continued to fish well with anglers getting multiple catches to 7lb. Daughters Lake did well again this month with lots of anglers amongst the fish to low 20's. Eden Pond was still the place to go for some tench with lots being banked to 5lb. Majors Lake saw a few anglers get in on the carp action banking them to mid doubles and tench to a massive 8lb 1oz.

June saw Snipe Lake again fish well with carp out to 32lb and then the fish decided to start spawning so we did the right thing and shut the lake for a while. Tuscany Lake saw the cats feeding well again and again Ben and I just couldn't keep up with all the catches. Low doubles to 69lb 9oz and lots in between. This month's Jeff's Lake Open was a bit more hectic and the results were 1st - Mark Hathway with 68-08, 2nd - Martin Charnock with 41lb and 3rd - Dan Szupienko with 35-04. And as with every month, we have lots of anglers are catching all different species on Jeff's Lake and it is perfect if you are new to fishing and want to catch some nice fish quickly. We closed Daughters Lake this month as the carp decided to start spawning but before we did a few fish were being caught up to and including a 23lb grassie. In Eden pond the average size tench has risen this month and the biggest caught was 6lb. Majors Lake was producing a few good carp to 18lb 3oz and some lovely tench to 5lb and a couple of decent crucians too.

July and the heat of the summer was well and truly upon us now. Snipe Lake re-opened after spawning then a few weeks later we shut again as they decided to have another last go but during the open period carp to 28lb 12oz were caught. While on Tuscany Lake the cats were coming thick and fast to weights of just under 66lb. This month's Jeff's Lake Open results were 1st - Alan Ringwood 95-08, 2nd Adrian Bell 79-06, 3rd - Harry Haggett 63-00. Also Warlingham A.C started there 3hr evening matches and the best weight was 93lb. Not bad for 3 hours fishing. We also held the Guru Junior Masters Match and on a scorching hot day and the competitors managed to fish through the 3 hour match on the hottest day of the year so far. Well done to all that took part. The top 3 were: 1st place - Alfie Martin with 46-11 - 2nd place - Billy Kirk with 29-12 - 3rd place - Tommy Clark with 19-12. July also saw us shut Daughters Lake as a few late spawners were having ago. We also purchased a solar aerator and placed it in Daughters Lake so we could maximise the amount of oxygen in there. Even with the low water levels in Majors Lake the carp continued to feed and we saw them banked to mid doubles and the tench were enjoying the warmth and being banked to just under 6lb.

August saw Snipe Lake produce carp to just under 27lb. Tuscany Lake was again doing superb for the cats with them being banked to just over 65lb. This month's Jeff's Lake Open results were 1st - Adrian Bell 41lb 8oz, 2nd - Bob Beal 38lb 4oz, 3rd - Dave King 36lb 12oz. Also this month the fountain stopped working on Jeff's Lake so we purchased a new paddle wheel aerator to keep the fish happy in the extreme heat we were having. Ben and I also made the decision to shut Daughters Lake as it was suffering from an algae bloom which the fish didn't like at all. Whilst the lake was shut we introduced barley straw bales, algae busting chemicals and pure barley extract to combat the problem but sadly we lost some of the stock. It was heartbreaking for us both, especially after all the hard work we put in to the lake over the winter. Eden Pond produced carp to just over 9lb. while on Majors Lake carp were being banked to mid doubles and some nice tench banked too.

September saw Snipe Lake again produce carp to 32lb and Tuscany Lake gave up cats to just under 64lb. This month's Jeff's Open Match results were 1st - Pawel Lesniak 30lb 6oz, 2nd - Trevor Pavitt 24lb 2oz, 3rd - Sam Beckinsale 21lb 4oz. Moat Pond did well with carp to 9lb. Eden Pond produced tench to 5lb. As like the last few months, Maze Lake has been doing well for the bream with plenty being caught to 8lb. Majors Lake threw up one of the larger carp this month at 22lb.

October saw Snipe Lake fish well with carp being banked to 30lb. Tuscany Lake saw cats out to 63lb 11oz. The Jeff's Lake Open saw these results 1st place - Harry Haggett with 71-06, 2nd place - Les Parker with 28-10, 3rd place - Sam Beckinsale with 27-12. Moat Pond saw carp banked to 7lb and a crucian banked at 4lb 6oz. Eden Pond saw the tench slow down as the water got colder but the carp were caught to just over 9lb. Maze Lake produced carp to 10lb and some



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nice bream. On Majors Lake the pike season was upon us again and plenty of smaller pike to low doubles were banked. Also the carp continued to feed and were banked to mid doubles.

November saw Snipe Lake a lot quieter than previous months but still produced carp to just under 24lb. Tuscany Lake also slowed down a bit but cats were being banked to 49lb. The Jeff's Lake Open results were 1st place – Trevor Pavitt with 42lb, 2nd place – Martin Charnock with 40lb 4oz and 3rd place – Bob Beale with 31lb 12oz. Daughters Lake is now back open after being shut whilst we dealt with the algae issue over the last couple of months. After the heartbreak of losing some of the stock in Daughters Lake in the summer due to the crazy weather which caused an algae bloom, we were very pleased to welcome some new stock for the lake. We have taken delivery of some stunning new mirrors to add to the existing stock. With the loss of some fish in the summer we have decided to keep the stocking of Daughters Lake to approx 90 fish, this is to minimise any future issues. The stock in Daughters Lake will now consist of mirrors and commons to mid doubles and grass carp to low 20's. The fish that we have stocked in 2017 and now in 2018 have very progressive growth rates so it is exciting times ahead. Anglers were straight on the fish with a mix of old stock and new being caught including grassies to 20lb 8oz. Majors Lake was still producing pike to low doubles but also a few carp to 18lb 2oz.

December At the time of writing, Snipe Lake has not been fished all week. Tuscany Lake however

is STILL producing catfish to 26lb which brings us on to an honourable mention. Sadly we can't name all anglers that have caught this year but we have to say well done to Jeff Betts who has fished Tuscany Lake on mainly afternoon visits and has banked over 100 cats to an English PB of 53lb. He has used approx 60kg of pellet over the year and up until yesterday (7th December) he was still catching them. The Jeff's Lake Open results for the December match were: 1st – Adrian Bell 57lb 4oz, 2nd – Dan Szupienko 56lb 8oz, 3rd – Trevor Pavitt 38lb 8oz. Daughters Lake continues to produce carp and Majors Lake has shown a few pike too.

Lastly, Ben and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our visitors over the last year! It's been great seeing all of our regular anglers and it's been a pleasure meeting new ones too. We have had an extremely tough summer that hopefully we won't see the likes of again, but also had a good year introducing new stock onto the fishery. We both look forward to seeing you all in 2019.

Andy and Ben



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Fishery Reports

Mousehole Lakes Paddock Wood, Kent



Mousehole Lakes

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Fishery Reports

Wylands International AC Battle, East Sussex



Dan Eaton

We have been experiencing some high pressure and with that comes tricky fishing. That said plenty of fish have been coming out from all the lakes on the complex. Now the nights are drawing in earlier the gate will now close at 7pm and open at 7am. A reduced winter day ticket is now in place. The winter season tickets are also available and proving very popular. They run until March 31st for the bargain price of £100.00 and you may fish as often as you like. With the café serving up hot food and drinks, the onsite tackle shop supplying all your needs including great advice and plenty of obliging carp, it makes Wylands a great winter venue.

NEW SPECI This lake is going from strength to strength and due to our removal of a large head of smaller carp the remaining fish are doing very well. The method seems to produce plenty of takes as does a quality boilie, the lake has produced a good number of 20s plus 2x 30lb carp have been caught.

OLD SPECI This pretty lake is fishing well as ever with plenty of carp being caught in a single day on a variety of baits with smaller boilies producing more bites. fish up to 15lb plus.

KELL commons are being caught up to 34 lb. Get the tactics right and its possible to bank some real quality big carp.

MIDDLE LAKE Is currently closed for maintenance and we look forward to opening it with some new stock in the near future.

HOUSE LAKE Fishing up the shallow end been productive and one lucky angler landed a 24 and a 22 in consecutive casts. A large amount of silver fish have been removed so fingers crossed the carp should start to show weight improvements.

MAISIES A fantastic catfish was landed this month 44lb along with common and mirror carp over the 20lb mark, the growth rates in this pretty lake are well on the up. A lake to keep an eye on.

FIELD, ROSIES AND SNAKE All three lakes have been as prolific as ever with the matches going from strength to strength open matches every other Sunday, are going well all welcome.

The winter carp cup is in full swing, for a full list of dates, rules and prizes visit our Facebook page or ask a member of staff.

A Happy New Year from all the team at Wylands!



Darel Robery



Hamish 20lb common



Sam 31lb 8oz Kell



Winter Silvers Match



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Elphicks has been designed and built with the modern angler in mind. We have 7 lakes available for day ticket and session fishing. Each lake has it's own parking within easy reach of the swims and all swims are 'all weather' - either built of Astroturf, stone or bark. Please contact the fishery for further information on any of our lakes.



Elphicks Fisheries Spelmonden Road
 Horsmonden, Kent TN12 8EL

Tel: **01580 212512**

email: info@elphicks-fisheries.co.uk



www.elphicks-fisheries.co.uk

Sues Tackle Cabin

Tel: **01797 225015 / 07980 290247**

Email: robbie@ryespice.co.uk



The Spice Warehouse,
 Rye Harbour Road
 Rye TN31 7TE

Open 8am-4.30pm Mon - Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun
 Plenty of FREE parking right outside the door

Your ONE STOP destination for all your coarse, carp, predator, beach and boat tackle and bait



Friendly helpful staff

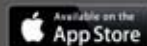
**IF BY ANY CHANCE WE DON'T HAVE WHAT YOU WANT IN STOCK...
 ...WE WILL ORDER IT**

Dedicated bait room • COMING SOON...indoor bivvy display area





Track, analyse and share your fishing adventures



Fishery Reports

Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society

BARDEN LAKE

Society Bailiff, 'Cheddar' has had some good results of late, fishing for the Carp. He managed to bag a couple of the very big residents in the lake, backed up by several other fish. Apart from these, there have not been many other fish reported, although whilst anglers were fishing the lake at the beginning of December, there were numerous big Carp breaking the surface on the windy days. The Pike fishing has been fairly productive with several big double figure fish being reported. Steve Twort recorded a nice 18lb 4oz fish, backed up by another low double. Austin Battell caught a lovely looking 18lb 15oz fish on a large deadbait and caught 5 other fish to 9lb on smaller deadbaits over two trips.



Austin Battell - 18lb 15oz

THE OLD BALLAST PIT

Carp fishing has been very good recently on here. Ben Honeysett had several Carp to double figures on one visit. Another regular, Jack, had a good session with several fish, including one of 17lb. During the winter months, this is a very good runs water.

THE NEW LAGOON

Fishing continues to be very good on here, especially for the big silvers at the moment. Dave Milns recently caught one of the huge Rudd which was just over 3lb. Bill Milton

has had some great sport with the small Carp, with fish to nearly 7lb. Jason Craven and Neal Rogers had a great day in the heavy rain, catching virtually all day with Tench to 4lb, Bream to just over 4lb, Roach to 1lb and Rudd to around 12oz. A few Carp to 5lb were also caught.



Neal Rogers - Tench



Stocked roach



Stocked rudd

WEIRWOOD RESEVOIR

With the recent rain and strong winds, the reservoir has coloured up a little and not so ant anglers have ventured out. A couple of reports of 20lb Pike being caught on deadbaits from Kayak anglers and a handful of doubles also reported.

Very best wishes for the New Year from all at Tonbridge Angling Society!



Stocked silvers



ORCHARD PLACE FARM FISHING

11 FISHING LAKES in the KENT COUNTRYSIDE

Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6NY

Tel: 01892 838576 Mob: 07568 176058

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 11 lakes - 8 carp and catfish lakes and 3 for match/pleasure fishing.

SPECIMEN LAKES

DAY TICKETS
AVAILABLE
24HR - £30
48HR - £55
(additional charge
for 3rd rod)

NEW - FULLY FUNCTIONING 30 PEG SILVER FISH LAKE

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, kettle, toaster and washing up facilities.

FOOD IS AVAILABLE ON SITE FROM APRIL TO OCTOBER

MATCH PLEASURE LAKES

DAY
TICKETS
£8.00
CONCESSIONS
£6.00

www.orchardplacefarmfishing.co.uk

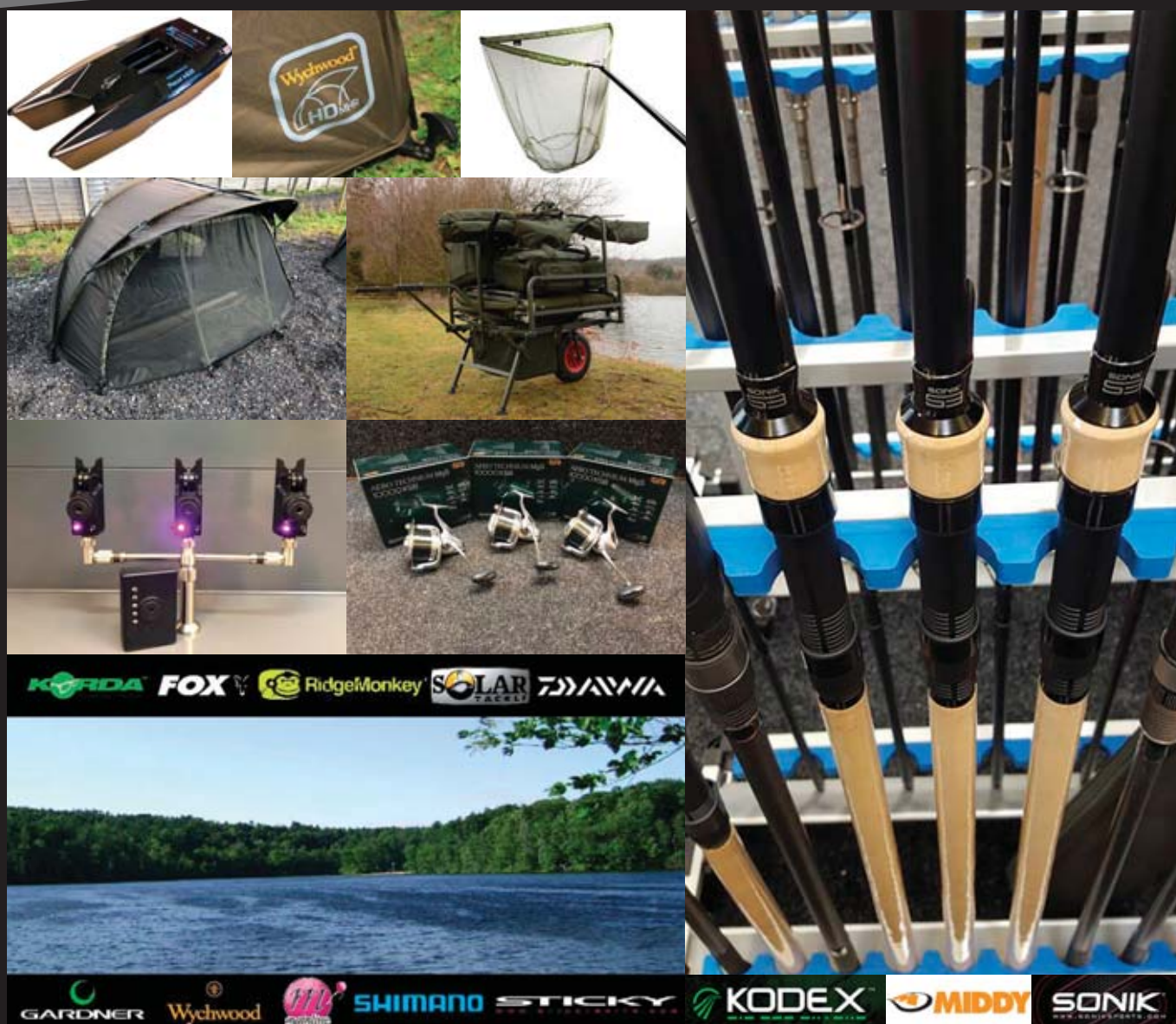
Tackle/bait/shop situated in the main car park, stocking all top bait brands inc worms maggots etc. Everything you need at VERY competitive prices.



AMPLE FREE PARKING - 15 MINS FROM M20 JUNCTION 9 BETWEEN ASHFORD AND TENTERDEN ON A28

**PART EXCHANGE AND PURCHASERS OF GOOD QUALITY
PRE-LOVED FISHING TACKLE, SINGLE ITEMS AND JOB LOTS
STOCKIST OF THE FINEST TOP BRANDS**

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT



BUCKLAND LAKE FISHERY

2.5 acre Trout Lake • Mixed Coarse Lake • Specimen Lake & Pike fishing
Day Tickets • Night Fishing • Fishing Tuition • Rod/Tackle Hire & Sales.
Group Bookings • Corporate Days • Boat Hire 'on trout lake' • Open 7 days a week
Contact the fishery manager Scott on **07827 337424/01634 220005** for more details

www.bucklandlake.co

email: **bucklandfishery@gmail.com**

Tel: **01634 220005**

Find us off the M2, Junction 1, A289 to Wainscot, Grain & Medway City Estate, 2nd left on the B2000 to Cliffe, ¼ of a mile after Cliffe Woods turn left into 'Rectory Rd' at the end turn right into Buckland Rd. **Buckland Lake Reserve and Fishery** is on the left.

FRESHWATER INFORMER

FRAMFIELD PARK FISHERY

Brook House Lane, Framfield nr. Uckfield, East Sussex

3 well stocked lakes including carp to 30lb, perch to 4lb, catfish to 65lb, roach, rudd, skimmers, tench, grass and ghost carp.



Day Tickets £8, OAP/Juniors £5,
Evening Tickets from 2pm to 7pm - £6, OAP/Juniors £4.
Large car park, toilets, access for disabled anglers.

Telephone 01825 890948 / Mob 07798 751175

Club and
Match
Bookings
Welcome

GABRIELS FISHERY

Edenbridge Kent

TN8 5PP

07730 066088

www.gabriels-fishery.co.uk



Five lake complex with Picturesque scenery and wildlife

Swallow lake- carp to 20lb

Hare lake- mixed coarse with 12 species

Silver lake- match water

Oak lake- carp to 30lb plus



Admiral lake (specimen lake)- stocked to 45lb.

To fish this lake you will need the following equipment:
42" landing net, a carp cradle with sides and an unhooking mat

River fishing try the weir pool for chub and pike

Tackle and Bait on site

Family campsite with easy access to many local attractions

Night fishing by appointment Access for disabled anglers



GREENACRES FARM FISHERY

Sissinghurst Road | Biddenden | Kent | TN27 8EH

For further information please call us on **07933 934942** or visit our website **www.greenacresfarmfishery.co.uk**

Email : **greenacresfarmfishery@gmail.com**



Located on the Weald of Kent in Biddenden we offer syndicate quality lakes for all. There is one specimen lake for carp, one specimen predator lake for carp, catfish 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).

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





Camo's Carp Cabin

Opening times: Mon CLOSED • Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat 9 - 5.30
Thu 9 - 8 LATE NIGHT SHOPPING • Sun 8 - 12



Brands stocked include:



11 Turner Street | Ramsgate | Kent | CT11 8NJ
Tel: 01843 581784 • Email: info@camoscarpcabin.net



BOWIE'S
• BARBER SHOP •



We opened our doors at the end of 2016 in Sparrows Green, Wadhurst. Bowie is a very experienced professional barber, whether it's a traditional scissor cut or a modern fade, we cater to all styles and ages. Toddlers can enjoy a haircut in our vintage fire engine while adults can enjoy the refreshments and free WIFI. We have parking right outside and plenty more on the street, no appointment needed! Just come in and take a seat!

For opening times please see website
01892 783 130 • www.bowiesbarbershop.com



- MENS CUT £14
- CLIPPER CUT £10
- BOYS CUT (AGE 12-16) £12
- KIDS CUT (UP TO AGE 12) £10
- OAPs £12
- BEARD TRIM (FREE WITH HAIRCUT) £4
- PAYMENT BY CASH ONLY

Bowies Barber Shop
Davies Place, Sparrows Green
Wadhurst TN5 6TE





Sharnfold Farm
FISHERY

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a wide range of coarse fish.... **Only £7 per day!**

Have a carp-free day!

• Tench to 6lb • Perch • Roach • Barbel • Chub

Hailsham Road | Stone Cross | Eastbourne **01323 768490**

BIGGIN HILL
ANGLING CENTRE
218 Main Road, Biggin Hill, Kent TN16 3BD




Telephone: 01959 570265

BIG EEL FOR ROBIN PIPER!

Regular reader and contributor Robin Piper sent me this great catch report of a very large eel he caught at Claygate Lakes near Marden. The eel weighed 4lbs 4ozs and took a prawn. Robin was using 8 lbs bs Maxima line tied to a size 12 Pallatrax barbless hook on a running leger rig. Weight was a half ounce Pallatrax Stonze weight.

I am pleased that Robin took the time to write in with his report, especially as we don't see many big eel catches being reported!



NEW FISHING TACKLE SHOP IN UCKFIELD



HOOKED ON
green

We are open 7 days a week for all your Carp, Match and Specialist Tackle with leading brands such as: NASH, DRENNAN, ESP, LEEDA, MIDDY, SOLAR, KODEX, KORDA, CC.MOORE, WYCHWOD and many more!

Check-out our website WWW.HOOKEDONGREEN.COM or pop in store for more details.

FREE CAR PARKING – We are next to Green DIY on the Bellbrook Industrial Estate: 01825 760139

WINTER WEEKDAY

Special Offer 2 for 1

Monday to Thursday on a £25/24hr ticket



Cackle Hill Lakes



Coarse Fishery

SPECIMEN LAKE 1

2 rods - £15 per Adult £13 over 65's & Juniors
Extra rod £3

SPECIMEN LAKE 2 3.5 acres

2 rods - £15 per Adult £13 over 65's & Juniors

MATCH / PLEASURE LAKE 1.5 acres

2 rods - £12 per Adult £10 for over 65's & Juniors
Extra rod £3

24 hour ticket: £25.00 Night ticket: £20.00

Species present in our lakes

- Common Carp up to 45lb • Mirror Carp 43lb+ • Ghost Carp 36lb+
- Grass Carp 32lb+ • Catfish 80lb+ • Tench 8lb+ • Bream 8lb+
- Perch 6lb+ also F1's, Rudd, Roach and Chub

Match Bookings Welcome



CAKCLE TACKLE
Tackle & Bait Shop
01580 292292



TACKLE & BAIT SHOP

ALL YOU NEED FOR A GREAT DAY'S FISHING

Stocking fantastic brands e.g. Mainline Shelf Life and frozen boilies, pop ups and dips. Also a variety of quality groundbaits, particles and pellets, maggots & worms. Korda, 30+, Middy, headlamps, catapults, rigs, alarms and much more...

CAKCLE HILL HOLIDAY LODGES

... perfectly placed for both fishing and golf with a Nick Faldo designed golf course just over the road. Biddenden boasts a Michelin starred restaurant as well as a traditional tea shop and a popular pub, while nearby Headcorn has a good selection of shops and a station with trains to London, Canterbury and the coast.



2 BEDROOM - SLEEPS 5



A spacious 2 bedroom holiday fishing lodge, ideal for fishing groups or families, set within the grounds of Cackle Hill Lakes Fishery. Available all year round
1 twin, 1 double + sofa bed

3 BEDROOM - SLEEPS 6

This beautifully designed, prestige holiday lodge is situated overlooking our Specimen Lake with stunning views.

3 bedrooms, kitchen/living area and 2 bathrooms



**CALL FOR DETAILS OF
OUR SPECIAL OFFERS**

CAKCLE HILL CAFÉ

Serving hot, freshly cooked food. Fridges with cold drinks and snacks.

**HOT AND COLD
FOOD AND DRINKS
AVAILABLE**

Why not try a Cackle Hill Takeaway - check out the menu on our website.

**FACILITIES FOR TOURING
CARAVANS AND CAMPERS**

Headcorn Road | Biddenden | Kent TN27 8JW
01580 292292 | 01580 291954 | 07885 284500

www.cackle-hill-lakes.com



YOUR CATCH REPORTS



is proudly
sponsored
by



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

Each month, Pallatrax will choose from the published photos and pick their winner. **The winner will receive EIGHT packs from the innovative new GRIPZ hook range.**

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

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



Gripz Fishing Hooks

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

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

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



WINNER



well done!

**The winner
of the
PALLATRAX
GRIPZ
Hooks Set for
DECEMBER is...**
Neil Willis
3lb 10oz PB
Private water

*However, Liam Thorpe
was a VERY close second*



JAMES BAKER - 27LB - MORE HOUSE FARM



JENNIE KEMP - 11LB - MOOR HALL NINFIELD



MICHAEL TURNER - 38LB - ELPHICKS



PETER HULLEY - 3LB 10Z - TRICKLEBROOK



MIKE & AIMEE PARKS



JACK WATTS - 19LB - EAST SUSSEX WATER



MICHAEL BARROW - 28LB - FRANT LAKES 7



DEAN EATON - 25LB - NEW SPECI WYLANDS

You can find **PALLARAX** at www.pallatrax.co.uk or call **01409 240042 | 01409 241135**



ANDY FORSTER - GEDGES LAKES - PADDOCK WOOD



MIKE - 26LB - HARTLEY LANDS



RICKY DEERANS



PETE BEST - 23LB - HARTLEY LANDS



STEVE HUNT - MOUSEHOLE LAKES



LEE PRIOR - 17LB - RIVER STOUR



RAY JOINER - 19LB - IDEN WOOD



MATT OVERY - 15LB - CHEQUERTREE



DAVE CHARLEY - 20LB - FURNACE BROOK FISHERY



DAVE BEST - 24LB - HARTLEY LANDS

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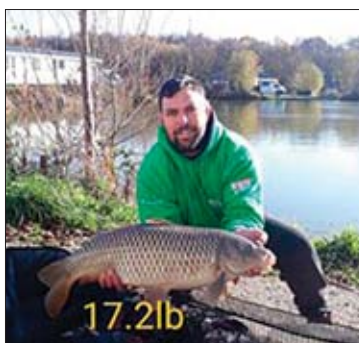
YOUR CATCH REPORTS



COLIN ETHERINGTON - SUSSEX OUSE



ROBIN PIPER - 11LB - GEDGES LAKE



GRAHAM CARTER - 17LB - STUBBS FISHERY



LEWIS HURST



JAY SPINX - 26LB 5OZ - BRAMLEY LAKE - HARTLEY LANDS



PHOEBE CANNON - 11LB 8OZ - SAMS LAKE



GARY DOUGLAS - 26LB - ORCHARD PLACE FARM



NIALL - WILLIAM AVENELL - 16LB - CHEQUERTREE



TRISTAN PARSONS - 15LB - THORNEY WEIR



CAMERON DUNBAR - 29LB - MOUSEHOLE LAKES

You can find **PALLARAX** at www.pallatrax.co.uk or call **01409 240042 | 01409 241135**

The Tackle Box



Established in 1983, The Tackle Box spent 17 successful years in the village of Sutton-at-Hone and built a reputation for all round customer service, good stock levels and angling knowledge, first locally and then both nationally and internationally. The Tackle Box was possibly the first shop, worldwide, to commit to the pursuit of one species of fish, carp, a commitment that had the rest of the angling trade questioning the decision.

Carp fishing wasn't what it is nowadays. Only a small percentage of anglers went carp fishing, but those who did seemed to be doing it in the Darent valley. Carp anglers from all over the country, came to fish at venues like Dartford, Darent, Sutton and Horton Kirby. The attraction was the bigger than average size of the fish. The shop became frequented by the migrating anglers because of its location, right in the heart of those Darent Valley venues. The carp fishing bubble was just about to take off ...

As the business grew, it became clear that the original premises were not going to be able to cope. So, in June 1999, The Tackle Box SUTTON-AT-HONE became The Tackle Box DARTFORD and everything was relocated to the current location in Watling Street, Dartford. The move allowed the business to grow and

provide an even better service to its customers. The bigger premises enabled the business to expand its coverage into all types of specimen angling and has catered for most species of freshwater fish such as Pike, Barbel, Tench etc, for many years, and have a healthy coverage of sea angling.

From what was a small packet-post affair, a worldwide mail order service grew. A fully equipped and staffed in-house workshop, for the repair and service of most angling equipment, was built inside the premises. Also, since the early years, The Tackle Box has been known for rod building and repair, and last year a fully operational custom rod building and repair shop was opened internally.

Customer service, good stock levels and a commitment to providing an excellent shopping experience are still very much priorities at The Tackle Box. The recent internal refurbishment demonstrates the good working relationship with major brands within the industry, as many suppliers have installed large brand-aware areas. Add to all this the warm welcome to all from knowledgeable staff, and you get everything that makes a visit to the shop a pleasure and an experience rarely equalled in any retail environment.

You can find us at:

The Tackle Box Dartford, 251, Watling Street, Dartford, Kent DA2 6EG

Only 5 minutes from junction 1B of the M25!

Plenty of FREE parking right outside the door!

We are open:

Mon to Weds : 8.30am – 6pm • Thursday : 9.30am – 6pm • Friday : 8.30am – 6pm

Saturday : 8.30am – 6pm • Sunday : 8.30am – 1pm

Bank Holidays : 9am – 1pm

www.tacklebox.co.uk

01322 292400



The Tackle Box

251 WATLING STREET, DARTFORD, KENT, DA2 6EG



TACKLE BOX CF-X RANGE

Our CF-X premium quality rods are attracting quite a following, they are priced to compete in the middle market but perform to a higher standard. The latest cosmetics really do present an image hard to match and reflects their performance as a top actioned fishing rod.

CF-X

**CUSTOM
BUILD
AVAILABLE**

**SAH
BRANDED**

**FOLD
FRIENDLY
RINGING**

CF-X BLACK EDITION

CF-X BLACK EDITION

		EACH	SET OF 3
13' Continental 50mm 3-4.5oz casting weight	19933	£219.99	£593.97
12' Continental 50mm 3-4.5oz casting weight	19934	£179.99	£485.97
12' 3.5lb SU 50mm (To Order)	19935	£172.99	£467.07
12' 3.25lb 50mm	19936	£164.99	£445.47
12' 2.75lb (To Order)	19937	£144.99	£391.47
10' 3.25lb	19938	£131.99	£356.37
10' 3lb	19939	£124.99	£337.47

CF-X BLACK EDITION UTILITY RODS

13' 4.5lb Spod Rod	19941	RRP £189.99 now £159.99
12' 4.5lb 50mm Spod Rod	19942	RRP £175.99 now £149.99
12' 3.75lb 50mm Marker Rod	19943	RRP £164.99 now £139.99
10' 3.75lb Spod, Marker & Device Rod	19940	RRP £144.99 now £124.99
6' 3lb Tree Rod	19944	RRP £79.99 now £69.99

CLEARANCE OF ORIGINAL CF-X ROD BUILDS LIMITED STOCK

We are clearing the CF-X rods with the original build and cosmetics.
These are the very same blanks as the new CF-X Black Editions.

		EACH	SET OF 3
12' Continental 50mm 3.5-5oz casting weight	15450	£170.00	£459.00
12' 3.5lb 50mm SU	12921	£160.00	£432.00
12' 3.25lb 50mm	14177	£155.00	£418.50
12' 2.75lb	12923	£135.00	£364.50
10' 2.75lb	15359	£115.00	£310.50

CF-X UTILITY RODS

12' 3.75lb 50mm Marker Rod	12925	RRP £160.00 now £135.00
10' 3.75lb Spod & Marker Rod	15360	RRP £135.00 now £115.00

**BUY ANY 3
ORIGINAL
CF-X RODS
GET THE 3 ROD
DISCOUNTED
PRICE AND A
CF-X 42"
LANDING NET
FREE OF CHARGE
WORTH £99.99**

WHY NOT MATCH YOUR CARBONS?

A CF-X Carbon Swift Stick	14734	£39.99
B CF-X EZ NET	42" 14439	£99.99
	50" 14438	£105.99

CUSTOM ROD BUILDING AND REPAIR SERVICE.

We offer an in-house rod building service, which allows you to create with the help of our rod builders, the rods of your choice.
Call the shop to discuss your requirements.

**CUSTOM
BUILD
AVAILABLE**

ORIGINAL CF-X ROD BUILD

MAIL ORDER SERVICE - LOCAL OR NATIONAL PLEASE TEL 01322 292400 OR ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.TACKLEBOX.CO.UK

THE TACKLE BOX, 251 Watling Street, Dartford, Kent, DA2 6EG. **EVERYBODY'S WELCOME!**



Get yourself started with our
Darent Valley Range





Experienced or just starting, this range will give you no end of affordable angling fun.
All Specimen Combos come with a Darent Valley Rod, a reel and a spool of line.
S&M and SMD Combos come with a spool of braid, a Marker Float and a Spod.





All Float Combos come with a Darent Valley rod, a reel and a 250 yard spool of line.





All Specialist Combos come with a Darent Valley rod, a reel and a 250 yard spool of line.



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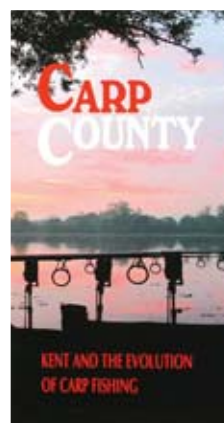


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THE BAIT SHED



By Roy Lawler

THE BAIT SHED IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY
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With the turkey eaten and decorations packed away for another year, Roy has been down the garden in the Bait Shed for his first article of 2019. Many anglers put their gear away until the Spring but, as Roy says, with the right bait success could be just a 'bleep' away! Here is Roy's winter recipe to try this January:

A Happy New Year everyone! I hope 2019 sees you well and that Christmas brought you all the fishing delights that you had hoped for. So many of us have now hung up the carp fishing gear ready for Spring, however, others have either moved over to a winter target fish or stuck with it in the hope of that elusive winter catch and who knows maybe, weather willing, a stunning snow carp shot! So with winter now well and truly upon us, and this being my first winter fishing full time on a home made boilie, I thought I would have a look around and see if I could find a recipe that I could put my own stamp on. I found a couple of cold water mix recipes readily available on the internet but have settled on a simple recipe with a basic list of ingredients for my 'one egg test mix'.

The list of ingredients are:

- 30g maize meal
- 30g milk replacer
- 30g semolina
- 10g acid casein
- 35g birdfood
- 7g whey protein concentrate

To this I added, for my own stamp

- 2ml CC Moore ultra pear drop essence
- 2g feed stimulants milk B+
- 3g winter amino compound powder along with a little superstim feeding trigger.



I cannot begin to tell you how good the pear drop essence smells! After mixing all the dry ingredients together, they were added slowly to the wet ingredients until a paste like 'playdoh' was achieved. This was wrapped in cling film and allowed to rest for 15 mins before gunning out in to 'sausages' where they were rolled on a 15mm table and then boiled for 1 min 30 seconds and left to dry.



As with all recipes that I share, I do not claim them to be my own, but, I like to put my own twist onto them that hopefully will enhance my fishing experience and really look forward to any feedback or tips and advice that you can share with me.

I'm really happy with how they have come out and shall be rolling a couple of kgs ready for a session down in Rye that I'm hoping to be able to get out to over the Christmas period.



As always they will be fished on a basic bottom bait hair rig with a fluoro topper to give them that added attraction of high viz that many of us like in the colder months

This is the first time I have included or even looked into the winter amino compound and I shall be rolling some with and some without in order to see if the catch rate is of noticeable difference.

This is quite a simple recipe that you could easily make at home with out the need for masses of ingredients. The recipe on it's own, without my own personal stamp, rolled just as well so could be used as it is or with your own stamp of flavours or attractors.

I cannot wait to get it into the water and hopefully will have a couple of catch report shots to share with you on the Facebook page.

Since the last Bait Shed article, my good friend Craig has been out on on the 'pop up toppers' that we looked at last month and has bagged himself a couple of lovely looking fish including this 14lb common from one of his club waters



INGREDIENT OF THE MONTH...

MilkB+ from Feed Stimulants

I very much like this ingredient due to it being an extremely sweet smelling powder which seems to amplify any essence or flavour that you add to it resulting in a very creamy aroma and taste.

A quick web search found the following information:

'Resulting back from the '80/90s' when it was very well known for its devastating impact in carp fishing. This Milky B is a very strong pure powdered flavour. It improves bait taste, increases food intake and promotes secretion of digestive fluids. Promoting in this way the digestibility and the absorption of nutrients of feedstuff. Very strong and sweet, long lasting smell with a kind of candy / scopex fragrance, all which have proven themselves in carp fishing captures. Unlike liquid flavours, the smell of powdered flavours remains for a much longer time because it dilutes slower in water.'



See you next month in The Bait Shed, where the kettle is always on!

Many of the ingredients and equipment that you need to join Roy in the Bait Shed can be found at The Tackle Shop, 44, Seal Road, Sevenoaks, Kent. TN14 5AR. Tel: 01732 454952. The Tackle Shop Sevenoaks is a small independent shop with easy access from the M25 and M26 in the heart of some of the best fishing in the county. We sell tackle that covers all fishing techniques, so whether you are into carp, match, coarse, sea, predator or fly fishing, we cover it all. We stock all major brands! Give us a call today!



Welcome to the River Informer!

Readers of both the magazine and followers of the Facebook page will be aware that I have been keen to have a dedicated River section within the Freshwater Informer. Probably like many other readers of a similar age to me (over 21!), we cut our teeth and began learning our watercraft on the local river. My local river was the Stour at Ashford in Kent. It was only a short walk down to the river from the house and we used to fish on the stretch between the Chart Leacon railway depot and Victoria Park. I am sure many of you who live in Ashford may know this stretch of the river! However, these days houses have been built to within casting distance of the water and it is a totally unrecognisable landscape from my childhood days. I understand it is called 'progress', however, I may wish to argue that point!

The first River Informer begins with Bob Morris, our 'Medway Man', who gives us his regular monthly informative view of the Medway and beyond. I am also pleased to introduce Jim Smith, who will be contributing regularly with his take on the Sussex rivers and countryside. Jim has spent his lifetime not only fishing the Sussex rivers but working on them as a bailiff and Riverman for the Sussex River's Board. There is probably no one who has a more intimate knowledge of the Sussex Ouse and other waterways than Jim. I am sure you will enjoy reading his take on life from East Sussex.

I would also like to use this section to show river catch reports, club news, river match results and other articles relating to the wonderful running water systems that course through our beautiful South East counties. Send me your news and photos etc to the email address inside the front cover or message me via the Facebook page. I look forward to hearing from you!

If your business is interested in being a sponsor for this brand new section of the magazine, please call, email or message me for a no obligation chat! All the contact details are inside the front cover. I look forward to hearing from you!



COLIN TAMES A WINTRY SUSSEX OUSE!



Sussex angler Colin Etherington had a session on the Sussex Ouse just before Christmas and found himself fishing a river with a little wintry attitude! Following some heavy rain, there was plenty of water with lots of colour. Undeterred, Colin fished the Sloop Weir at Scaynes Hill and was rewarded with a fine barbel and chub. The successful bait was four lobworms held in place with plastic maggots.





A Countryman's View

This is the first in a series of articles from Sussex Countryman Jim Smith. Jim has been associated with Sussex river angling for many years with his work as a water bailiff for the Ouse Angling Preservation Society and East Sussex Rivers Board. He has a lifetime of experience and has kindly offered to pen some articles about his experiences over many years. This month, Jim begins by giving us an introduction to himself.

"Hello, my name is Jim Smith, but, I am also known as 'Jim the Fish' and for fifty years I have been the bailiff for the Ouse Angling Preservation Society which was originally formed in 1875. It is still going strong! I have held a full time warrant from starting with my work for the East Sussex River Board in the mid 1960s working on the River Ouse and Uck performing a variety of tasks. This could involve clearing obstructions from the banks and waterways or working with draglines and pioneer work. I could also be called upon to investigate and resolve issue on the various tributaries and streams leading in to the main waterways.



fly fishing on the Ouse



Confluence of the Ouse and Uck

I have fished since I was a small boy in the various Sussex rivers and ponds that had given me permission. My first rod was made from a tank aerial and I also had a rather long, crude bamboo cane and with this I caught my first trout on a warm summer's day on the River Uck. The trout was proudly taken home as it was 'big enough'! In those days the licence cost one shilling (5p) and it was a bright orange document. I remember it being inspected by Bob Edwards, the East Sussex River's Board bailiff at the time!

Anyhow, back to my working days on the rivers! One day I was approached by the Honourable Secretary of the Ouse Angling

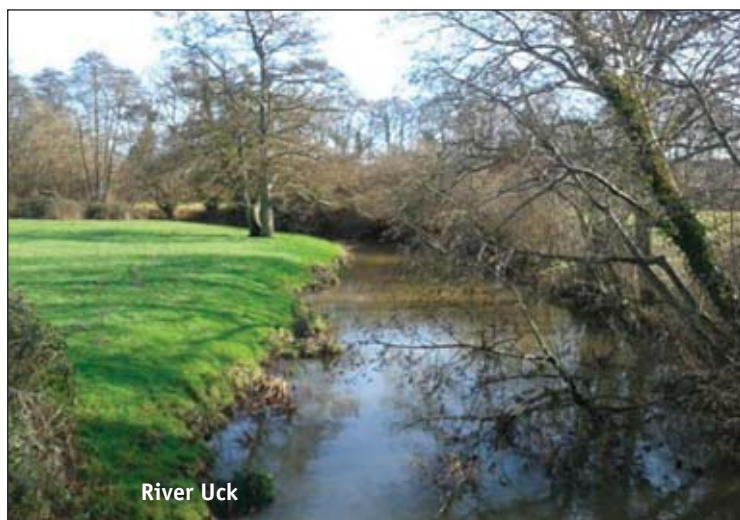
Preservation Society, Dr. J. L. Cotton, to ask if I would like to come along and join them as a Full Time Bailiff. I jumped at the chance as the River's Board had a full time bailiff on the Ouse, the late F. G. Mc Cavish, who I used to accompany on his rounds. Learning all the time, Mac, as he was known, always had time for the fishermen to educate them on the ways and laws of the river and all methods of fishing it. Day tickets on parts of the Ouse cost a shilling (5p) and many a time he would himself pay for a less well off angler's day ticket to encourage them for the future! Mac came from the Conway in Wales and he taught me so much. Sadly, he passed way at his home in Rodmell. I took over from Mac and put all that he taught me to good use.

The Ouse is famous for it's sea trout and they were far more prolific in those days long passed. Excellent catches of chub, carp and perch were also made on what was and is a truly excellent mixed river fishery and I had the pleasure of looking after it. Some time later the roach fishing dropped off and we had lots of roach / bream hybrids. This was followed by the 'roach disease'.

I remember the price of a Season Ticket and a licence for the sea trout cost five shillings (25p) and was coloured blue! It was always a pleasure to walk along the rivers and streams and observe the wildlife. It is still the same when I am fishing now, tucked away quietly on the bank. One swim I knew was called 'The Robin Swim'



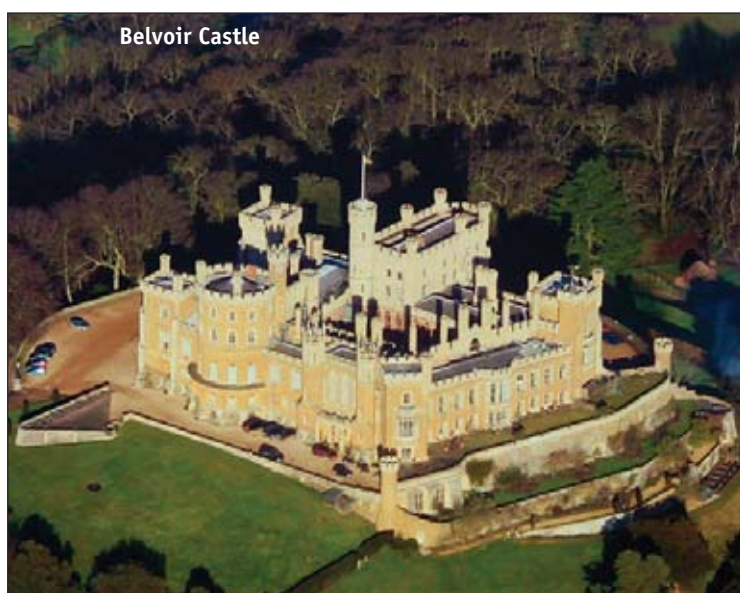
sea trout



River Uck

as whenever anybody fished it the robin would appear from nowhere looking for a free meal of a maggot or two.

A proud moment of my career came in 2009 at the Game Fair at Belvoir Castle in Leicestershire. I was presented with a Long Service Medal by Vincent Hedley – Lewis, chairman of the CLA (Country Landowners Association) and His Grace, the Duke of Rutland. The award was given in recognition of my forty five years service and work to the River Ouse catchment and took place on Sunday 26th July 2009. It was indeed a very proud moment for me shared with my many friends. I recall that the medal was presented with a handshake and a chat with his Grace followed by a fine lunch! There were a total of four awards given out in the mid 1990s to myself and other local people who founded the Sussex Ouse Conservation Society. We were all conservation minded people of a like mind that



Belvoir Castle

included the conservation of our beloved river and concerns over the abstraction of water and pollution from various sources. This included litter and general rubbish from the River Uck. We organised 'clear – ups' with members of the Conservation Society and general public. We cleared large amounts of rubbish including old fridges, bikes, plastic, cans and other items from the Industrial Estate that had been dumped on the banks of the river as it flows through Uckfield. The Conservation Society went on to become the Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust and I am the Field Officer for the group. I have made many friends through the years including a Prime Minister (!), farmers, various other landowners and have always received excellent co-operation from the police and local authorities.

I have always adopted the motto 'Treat people as you would like to be treated yourself' and it has always served me well. I always keep a vigilant watch on the Ouse for over abstraction of water and pollution and if you see anything untoward and this includes poaching, call 0800 807060. You are protecting your fishing and the freephone number is printed on your licence. Always better to be safe than sorry!

My fishing has seen me travel all over the UK and has always provided me with so much pleasure since boyhood days and I have always looked forward to the coming of the New Season on June 16th to see nature and the season unfold before my eyes. People often ask me what are the threats to the Ouse and other Southern rivers. From my lifetime of working as a river keeper, I would say that it would be from abstraction, pollution and over development of the whole area. We are seeing thousands of new houses being built right across the region, but, I always ask where is the water going to come from and how is the sewage going to be safely treated and disposed of. I am also the Vice Chair of our local Parish Council and have been for 38 years and am constantly asking the above questions whenever more development is mentioned in the area.



River Ouse

I am determined that our local rivers can be enjoyed by many generations to come and hope that they get as much pleasure as I have done through my years of both working and fishing on the banks!"

Cheerio for now, Jim

**I do hope that you enjoyed Jim's reminiscences of the Ouse and Uck!
Jim will be back next month with more of his Countryman's View!**

Medway Man

Bob Morris

First of all this month, I would like to wish the best of fortunes for 2019 to the readers of this column and 'may all your monsters come home to roost' ! This is fishing we are talking about here however, and so we must all be aware of how much luck we will need for this to actually happen - in spite of our very best efforts. All you can really do is try to eliminate as many of the chance elements as you can, in order to give yourself the nearest thing you can get to a level playing field!



Piking on the Wye

My early winter trip to the Wye, once again coincided with the first spell of cold weather and the daytime air temperature did not rise above four degrees for the three days of our stay. It was probably fortunate, for my pal Ian and myself, that the previous week had seen a certain amount of rain and the river levels up by several feet or more. This meant that although we had undoubtedly missed the best time to fish, the water temperatures would take a day or two to drop to a drastic level. Nevertheless, I think that it would be fair to say that we were

not exactly expecting fireworks from the barbel fishing. This turned out to be a fairly accurate prediction and although we had some action from the Chub, including some nice ones up to four and a half pounds, the whiskers were indeed hard to find. As a sort of back up plan B, I had brought my Pike gear and a few assorted deadbaits along for just this sort of scenario, and so on the second day I found myself trying my best to tempt them with a variety of tactics including float fishing/trotting with a sprat, twitching one along the margins and likely looking areas around sunken trees etc, - and also the time honoured static herring on the bottom. The conditions seemed ideal for a snapper or two, but takes failed to materialise, as they did for the following two days. This was extremely disappointing but just to show that things are never quite as predictable as



Another Wye barbel in the net

we like to think, the barbel suddenly woke up on our second evening and we had a very reasonable catch (for the conditions) of six fish all between six and nine pounds - along with several decent sized chub. The following day, it was back to 'Nil Point' on the piscatorial front and I struggled to raise any more than a couple of chubby takes. With freezing rain and a hard frost by 9pm it was time for me to throw in the towel. It is true that we could have had a bit more luck with the weather, and the fish, but it was a really enjoyable few days away with Ian and host Andy and as always, I was totally blown away by the fantastic scenery and wildlife of the stunning Wye valley.



A few decent barbel



A good recent barbel

On the home front the pike fishing has become a bit slow of late but the odd take is still occurring with most fish being in the mid-double range, in fact I seem to have had quite a good average size this winter - with hopefully the best yet to come. Hang on, I shouldn't say that should I? Something that we have noticed recently is that on one particular water, anglers that are fishing with livebaits seem to be getting more action. This is a phenomenon that I have come across a few times over the years, and was perhaps, most noticeable during the time that we spent piking on the Broads during the eighties. It was often the case that after a day of sitting behind a battery of deadbait rods, without action, we eventually managed to catch a roach or two which frequently produced action within minutes of casting. These spells where our deadbaits were being ignored were not due to wary pike - as the areas that we were fishing were not being targeted by others. We came to the conclusion that it was all down to the movement and behaviour of the fodder fish. During the colder months, roach and bream were often found in tight shoals probably containing thousands of fish, and it appeared that the pike would follow these around for an easy meal. The classic event was when the baitfish moved into the



Still getting the odd take

areas of boatyards and marinas for cover at this time of year with the pike (or at least the local ones) following. At such times it often became much harder to get takes on static deadbaits or even trotted ones for that matter. It was a bit like a sort of pre-occupation with the live fish, rather like carp/tench may become obsessed with bloodworm feeding etc. It is just a theory, but I have seen it happen from time to time on a variety of waters now over the years. As I have said before, I hardly ever use live fish for bait these days but I still like to keep my options open for circumstances like this.

The late autumn rains did liven up the rivers and my campaign to get amongst a few chub and barbel was stepped up accordingly. I did not, of course, manage to get as much time in as I was hoping for but I am quite pleased with how it has been going prior to Christmas with some nice chub and a few decent barbel coming to my net during some relatively short December sessions - albeit whilst enduring some absoluteley foul conditions. This may all end with a big freeze-up, but if this does happen, it may mean that the pike are more inclined to pick up my deadbaits again, swings and roundabouts? If I can just sort out my 'Ying from my Yang', I may just end up with 'More Bang for my Buck'!

Hopefully 2019 will continue in this vane and, possibly, allow me to rule out even more of the chance elements!



Bob returns a Medway barbel

Best Fishes, & Less Chance Elements

Bob Morris

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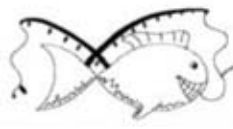
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Welcome to the Junior Informer pages!

We hope you all had a great Christmas and you had some nice fishing gifts from family and friends. No doubt you are keen to get out and try your new presents! Winter can be a great time to get out fishing. You will need to wrap up warm and take some hot drinks and food with you but the results can be good although you may have to work a little harder to catch. The roach fishing can be good with some prime fish coming on the feed. The secret is to scale down your tackle from the summer months with finer line and smaller hooks. Be careful not to put too much bait in to your swim, a little now and again is the way to go. Look for a groundbait that contains less fishmeal, as this can contain oil and be less digestible for the fish. Oil and cold water do not go together. Try a 'sweeter' type of groundbait or use liquidised bread. A few slices of liquidised bread can go a long way when introduced a little at a time. For hookbait, again you can use bread, either using a punch or small pinches gently squeezed on to the hook. Alternatives are maggots, pinkies (smaller maggots), casters and worms. You can use worm sections which can be a winner. Never forget to have the trusty sweetcorn in your tackle bag as well. Micro pellets with a low oil content can be fed a few at a time. Very often at this time of year, the last couple of hours of daylight can be the most productive time.

We are always keen to hear from businesses who would like to be sponsors for the Junior section. The business does not have to be fishing related. By becoming a sponsor you are showing your commitment to promoting fishing among young people which is so important in preparing the next generation of anglers. Call 01634 869317 or 07722 025449, email or message us on our Facebook page for a chat. To become a sponsor, we would ask for a minimum donation of £100. Naturally you are welcome to sponsor by a larger amount should you wish to choose. I would like to sincerely thank all of the Junior Informer sponsors for their support throughout 2018 and I look forward to working with them through this coming year. The support of sponsors is so important in helping provide the junior section.

Don't forget to keep your catch photos coming in to us. We love to show your success as much as you probably like to see your photo in the magazine! As you can see, lots of great photos were received this month for the Junior photo album. It is nice to see some treasured memories from that lovely summer we had, which seems like a long time ago now! Don't forget that we also like to report on junior angling events in the region so do send us your news!

Happy New Year to you all, Banny Reed

A Proud and Moving story from Darren Moore

“Hi there I'm Darren Moore and I just wanted to show you some pictures of an Autumn fishing trip I had with my daughter Jessica. She's only six years old and we fished centre lake at Newdigate.

We had a triple take in the morning, all at the same time, it was crazy! But we landed all three and Jessica managed to bank two of them. They went 19lb and 20lb 8oz and I am so proud of her landing both together with no help from me. I only needed to get the net for her. As a family in the half term breaks we as a family tend to go fishing when we can. We have had 10 fishing holidays this year (2018) in the UK



nature and getting away from the rat race and just chilling out by the lakes there's nothing better than that in life.

I suffered some major health problems in the last three years, which means I'm half the man and half the dad I used to be. I use fishing as a way to re-energise myself and by putting myself in the position of being outside alone, in the middle of nowhere, to be honest with you, is not best idea.

However, what I find is, when I go fishing



lasting anywhere from 2 to 7 days.

I'm contacting you because I would love, if it's possible, that can do an article on my daughter as fishing has been a part of my life for the last four years.

I fish for cats, carp and pike and I've done very well on the cats and not so much on carp this year. The only problem is when you're going

each week, I can do more and more with my kids and achieve so much more in life which I never thought would be possible and to see my kid's face when she catches two pb on the same day, has made me so proud.

I normally do some live videos on Total Carp on Facebook and I've just purchased a GoPro as I want to tell my story about the real truth behind my illness and want to let a lot of people know we don't have to suffer in silence and you shouldn't have to be ashamed. I will do my video / movie next year to give people hope, no matter how tough life gets, you can carry on. It will be tough but you are stronger than you believe you are. I'm not asking you to do an article for me as I will tell my story to the world very soon and give hope to others.

I just want you to recognise how well my daughter has been fishing!! To only be six years old and manage a 19lb and 20lb 8oz carp on a 6ft rod, both rods going off together, I'm just so proud of her!”

Best wishes,
Darren and Jessica Moore



fishing you spend a lot of time in the middle of nowhere by yourself, which can be very lonely at times. I deliberately go during the week so I don't miss out on family time as life is precious and the moments you can spend with your kids is the best thing I've ever done!! So to be able to include my family, including my daughter, son and wife on our fishing holiday and the odd day ticket here and there is precious and priceless as the memories we make as a family being outside in the fresh air, seeing



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

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



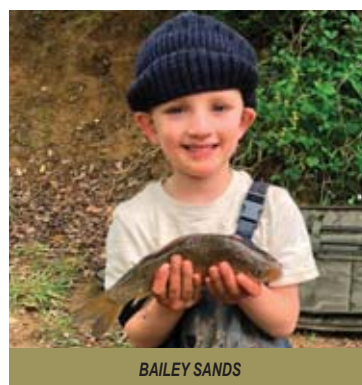
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BRANDON WILSON - 30LB



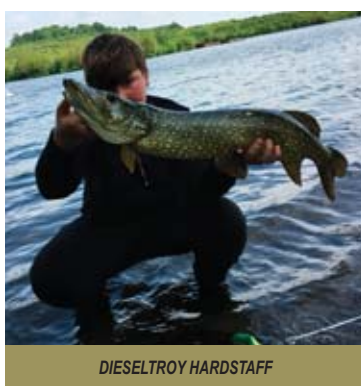
AIMEE PARKS - AGED 7



BAILEY SANDS



GEORGE YOUNG 5LB - CLAYGATE LAKES



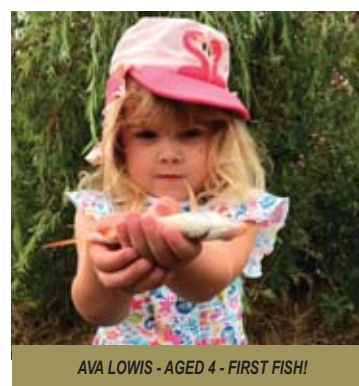
DIESELTRY HARDSTAFF



GEORGE COX 8 - CLIVE VALE LAKES HASTINGS



GEORGE STOKOE 16LB - LOCAL PARK LAKE



AVA LEWIS - AGED 4 - FIRST FISH!



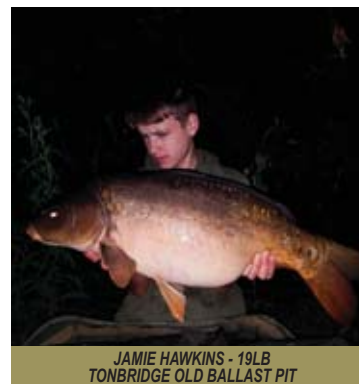
HARLEY YOUNG - 9LB - MOUSEHOLE



HARVEY JONES - 12LB - WHITE ACRES CORNWALL



JACK WOOD - HORAM MANOR



JAMIE HAWKINS - 19LB
TONBRIDGE OLD BALLAST PIT

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JOHN & MATTHEW MUMMERY



JORDAN PRIESTLEY



JOSHUA TADD



KINLEE WILMOTT - 15LB



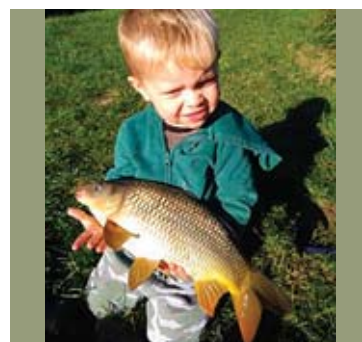
LEON MASON - 6LB - LOCAL LAKE



LILY WEBB - NEARLY 8!



MASON MAYNARD



OLIVER STENT



OSCAR HUTCHINGS - AGED 6



OWEN BRETT 12 - DDAPS WATER



OWEN TAYLOR



REGGIE & TEDDY AT THE MUSHROOM FARM



RILEY WILMOTT - 15LB



SEAN & TOBIE WELLS



THOMAS GLINDON



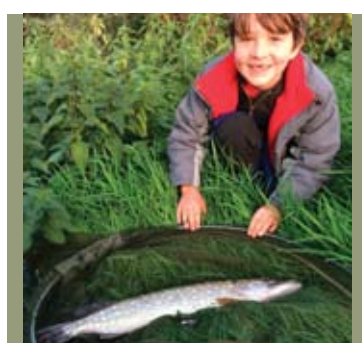
TJ - 36LB - DARENTH



BEN ORMANDY - 22LB - NEW PB



CHARLIE PRITCHARD - 12LB - NEW PB



DEXTER FRANCIS FIRST PIKE - THE MEDWAY



CHARLIE MASON - 8LB 5OZ - LOCAL LAKE

PALLATRAX *Catch more fish* **JUNIOR INFORMER PHOTO ALBUM** **PALLATRAX** *Catch more fish*

FISHING FOR SCHOOLS

January Update

The past year has been a very busy and successful one for the Kent Fishing 4 Schools (F4S) team of Warren White, Charlie Rayner, Rob Goble, David Evans and Steve Scrivener, who provide a unique combination of fly and coarse fishing instruction to youngsters across the area.

They have been working with nine schools - Rowhill, The Malling, Maplesden Noakes, Thamesview, Meadowfield, Bower Grove, Broomhill Bank North, West Heath and the Maidstone and Malling Alternative Provision and the programme continues to go from strength to strength, with more schools wanting to be part of this incredible initiative each year. One of the highlights of 2018 was being part of Fishing TV's World Fishing Day on 23 June. This was an attempt to unite the global angling community, with footage showing people from around the world taking part in angling activities within the same 24 hours shown on the channel. A little time before the day, F4S was visited by a film crew from Fishing TV who were keen to show how charities like us can use fishing to change lives.

Two of the schools who were completing an angling qualification with F4S at the time were featured - Thamesview School, Gravesend, who were in the final weeks of completing their Aims award course and pupils from Rowhill School who were doing their BTEC Fishery course. The aim was to show how our courses work.

The day started with a visit to the hatchery at Hadlow College, with the cameras rolling, then on to the Grove Farm fishery for an angling session. It turned out to be a great advert for F4S, showing the work we do with young people and the benefits fishing has for our students.

For the first time this year we ran an art competition for our students, with the aim of helping them identify different species of freshwater fish.

Warren got the idea for the art competition from an ex-student from

Rowhill School who was always keen to draw fish for his Aims Award coursework. By adding pictures to his worksheets he ended up with a really impressive portfolio that helped him pass the course with flying colours.

The same student went on to art college when he left school - a great result.

Other highlights included our annual fishing match, with the highest catch weight increasing year on year and the success of pupils from Thamesview School who graduated from our Aims award course.

But the expansion of F4S in Kent in to provision for people with mental health issues is a subject that gives the team great satisfaction - adults from the Charlton Athletic Community group, MCCH and The Trevor Gibbens Unit all enjoyed days fishing over the summer months, when our schools are on holiday.

Here's to 2019 and a new year with new challenges and successes for our excellent team!



Fishing 4 schools - January Tip of the Month from instructor Rob Goble

Happy New Year to you all, young and old. I hope you all had a great Christmas.

Here we are, another year on and a little older and wiser! I do hope you have benefited and been inspired by my articles and tips over 2018, whether you coarse, sea or fly-fish (or maybe you do all three).

It again has been a disappointing winter for cod/codling fishing from our beaches, with winter gales and all manner of food being washed up on our shore - lugworm, razor fish and clams, but no cod. In the past, we anglers would have anticipated this weather and been on the beach ready for bags of cod! I do hope things improve in future years.

However, there are still bass to be caught and massive shoals of whiting, to keep the rod tips rattling. Coarse fishing has been steady, with higher water temperatures keeping fish feeding - you only have to look at the pictures in the Informer - but as the temperatures tumble on the lakes it could get a little harder to catch.

Have you fished our rivers? They are the go-to places to fish at the moment, but obviously when they are not running high and coloured. Quiver tipping or float fishing are the way to go if conditions allow. There is great sport to be had with roach, bream and chub all very obliging and a good chance of barbel. All these fish can fall to maggots, bread and luncheon meat.

A place to try is on the Medway at Teston above the weir. This is a day ticket stretch that can fish well but keep in touch with the Informer for the latest info on where the good fishing is to be had.

Trout fishing, although cold, will be good. My advice is to wrap up warmly to keep out the cold, with base layers, not too tight, under your waterproofs, good boots, gloves and of course a warm hat that covers your ears.

We are fortunate to have some good trout waters in Kent and the south east. Why not make a New Year's resolution to try these waters, if you have not already:

- **Tenterden Trout Waters** - very close to the town, is an ideal location with very new facilities, a warm lodge, toilets and tea and coffee making facilities all included. It has three lakes, containing some large rainbow, browns and blue trout. There is a basket retaining system, meaning as you catch you can hold up to ten fish in the basket. At the end of your session you pick out the fish you would like to keep, releasing the others to fight another day. A warm welcome awaits you from Richard, Gaynor and Audrey.
- **Springhill Trout Waters** at Pembury near Tunbridge Wells - is another great water with great fishing for blues, rainbows and browns. It is well out in the sticks with

four lakes, two of which are brown trout fishing only. The main lake has platforms all around. Again, you can expect a warm welcome from Lee and Jane and a comfortable lodge, with hot and cold drinks, some tackle for sale, and rods and reels for hire as well. I am one of the resident instructors and we offer one-to-one tuition as well as corporate days. There are also tagged fish with £100 riding on their capture!

- **Other waters to mention are Bewl Water, Chequertree Trout and Coarse fishery in Bethersden, Brick Farm, Herstmonceux and Coltsford Mill in Oxsted.** These are just some of our fisheries - find more online, in this publication or through your local tackle store.

The flies to use for January include all the usual suspects - Viva cat's whisker, nomads etc, lures with black and a different colour - black and green, black and orange etc, and of course the minkie.

Floating lines will be useful, but I suspect intermediate or full sinking line will do best. Don't be in a hurry to retrieve - slowly does it.

Keep warm, be safe but most of all have fun!



COACHING COARSE FISHING BY WARREN WHITE

A summary of 2018

It has been another really good year for coaching in Kent.

Most of my time these days gets taken up running the Kent Branch of Fishing 4 Schools, working with our schools and Disability and Mental health groups, which gets more popular than ever.

I have coached at some really good events this year including the Hadlow College's Open Days where Brian Bailey at the college encourages youngsters to have a go at fishing; not only are these college events but also events funded by the local council.

This year in July I attended the annual DDAPS, The Dartford clubs, Junior fun day. It was a scorching hot day at Horton Kirby Lakes, but, was another really good day that was attended by over 300 Juniors, which is proof that there are a lot of Young People who would love to get into fishing, given the opportunity!



Gravesham Council

We had another great two days in the schools' summer holidays coaching young people how to fish at Shorne Country Park, Gravesend. This course is part of Gravesham Council's Summer Fun Events and as normal all the places for the course were fully booked. This course is run by Danielle Lock from the council and David Evans (coach) and is run over two days



and consists of 3 sessions in each day to try and squeeze more youngsters into the course.

Shorne Country Park is a great place to take youngsters who want to learn to fish, as it is full of silver fish and the bonus crucian carp, tench and other strains of Carp, including the pretty fantails. Throughout the two days we had some lovely catches. This is a real family event, that is enjoyed by the young people that take part and also the coaches in attendance.



Rowhill SEN school

I have been working with Rowhill SEN school, Longfield now for over 10 years. Over the years we have delivered many fishing sessions and always found that the students are keen on doing a course that involves being outside in an outdoor environment, so fishing seems to fit the bill. It amazes me how students that might struggle to concentrate in an indoor environment once brought into an outdoor environment really come alive and their behaviour and concentration levels really improve. Weren't we all like that at school!

Rowhill SEN school, Longfield, although a rare case, have the perfect school fishing model. This is a school that works in partnership with Fishing 4 Schools.



For more information on Coaching Coarse Fishing, call Warren on 01837 758923 or visit www.coachingcoarsefishing.co.uk

F4S fund a fishing Cast Awards course for the younger year 7-8 students, where the youngsters get their first interest in fishing, then in year 9 these students go on taster days. This could be in construction, motor bike mechanics or our BTEC fishery course. They then get to choose which course they want to take, which involves a 2 year vocational course. Year on year this BTEC Fishery course has become more popular, with a lot of interest to get on the course.

The important thing is that the school funds this two year course themselves. Why? Well this is because the school realises the benefits that a fishing course has on their students, and by doing something they like, the chances are that their students will do well on the course and end up with an accredited qualification in Fishing.

It cannot be underestimated how having a good venue helps make the course work and at Hadlow College's Grove Farm Fishery, we have a facility that has a lodge a few yards from the lake. We always get our work done in the lodge first thing in the morning then the reward is to go fishing after you have finished your work.



We have some really bright boys on the current course, who are really keen on fishing and want to learn more.

One lad, is fishing mad, something he hadn't tried before we got him involved, now he has aspirations of going onto the college to do a fishery course when he leaves school. The same lad who had never really fished before starting on the fishing courses at school, is currently away in France on his birthday fishing for carp with his Dad, who wasn't into fishing until he went with his son! Now they go fishing together, which is great to see!

When I look back at my coaching for 2018, I will remember a hot season, but, a good one, working with so many young people and with my adult mental health groups that have a real passion for fishing doing something they love to do.

I am also lucky that my job is my passion!

Good luck Barry, with your new venture with the Freshwater Informer! Keep the articles coming in about youngsters doing their fishing, after all they ARE the future of fishing!

Best wishes and a Happy New Year to you all, Warren White

DUNGENESS ANGLING ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS JUNIORS EVENT

DAA Juniors had their Xmas meet on Sunday 9th December on a nice slightly windy East Bay at Dungeness. Ten juniors fished and they all caught fish with the main fish being whiting and a few dogfish. The young anglers landed over 100 fish between them! After the fishing they then went to the Pilot pub for dinner and prizes and a warm up!

Many thanks to the Pilot pub for the meal and a special thanks to John Smith for his donation of £110 towards the juniors' prize fund.

Thanks to everyone that came along and fished.



Happy New Year to everyone from the Dungeness Angling Association!



JAMES AND EDDIE ARE THE TROUT MASTERS!

Scott Benton of the Tunbridge Wells Fly Fishing Society took two juniors members to Spring Hill trout fishery at Pembury near Tunbridge Wells.

Scott told the Informer: "We had a 2 fish ticket each and whilst I had 2 weighing in at 3lb total, junior James Constantine age 14 caught a fantastic 6lb 4oz brown trout, and Eddie Benton caught a 7lb rainbow! Never have I been so ashamed to weigh in!"

Regards Scott Benton, Tunbridge Wells Fly Fishing Society

You were beaten by the Trout Masters Scott!

Perhaps the lads should be taking you fishing?







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Contact: secretary@crawleyflyfishers.org.uk Web Site: www.crawleyflyfishers.org.uk

Phone: 07528 605370 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/>



Brick Farm Lakes Herstmonceux, East Sussex

FIRSTLY... Happy New Year to all of you! Here at Brick Farm Lakes we hope you enjoyed a healthy and happy Christmas and now that things are returning to normal we can consider some serious winter fishing. Can't we?

As time marches on without so much as a backward glance we need to carefully think about the coming year and, in particular, the winter season ahead. January, February and March can be cruel, dark and depressing months for many of us and it takes a good dose of enthusiasm to venture out at times. Of course, we need to consider our health and safety. There are days when the roads are challenging, the weather dreadful and snow and ice cover the ground. These are undoubtedly the times to tuck up indoors with a tasty casserole and a bottle of port. No one wants a bout of the flu or a nasty accident after all! However, in between the bad days we do have some respite with sunny, crisp mornings and still, peaceful winter days and these are the times to relish and embrace with open arms. I recall having the roof off my old car on a day like this in February, yes I had a hat and coat on but to feel the winter air was wonderful and did me a power of good and gave me a much needed physical and mental boost. So, with a warm hat and coat we do not need to hibernate until the spring. Fishing is a marvellous way to quietly enjoy the winter wildlife during this unique season in our yearly calendar. Personally, give me an icy puddle and a sprinkle of snow anytime and I'm a "happy bunny" as they say. This may sound weird to many of you sun-lovers out there, a bit odd, but it takes all sorts after all! At Brick Farm Lakes a day's fishing can reveal some wonderful moments... the Kingfisher patrolling the bank in front of the Lodge... the Heron standing, sentinel, in his favourite spot beneath the oak tree... the Grey Wagtails lined up along the roof... a flock of geese flying noisily overhead... a heard of deer galloping into the cover of the wood... pheasants, squirrels, moorhens and foxes going about their daily routines. If you take the time to take a stroll through the little wood, you will see the thick holly and Spindle berries and along the banks of the little stream the Wrens and Goldcrests flitting and darting around. In the sheltered spots you can glimpse the first of the snowdrops poking through and I even once witnessed the rare sight of my own shadow, magnified against the foggy hillside beneath a beautiful rainbow... a "Brocken Spectre" it is called apparently, or a "Brocken Bow" or "Mountain Spectre". WOW!!!! So, let us grab our rods and go out and experience the winter countryside in all its glory. They say that the BIG fish come out to play in the colder months and who knows what we will see along the way.

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FISHERIES IN THE BRITISH ISLES 2018

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www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk

At Brick Farm Lakes we will continue to stock through the winter months with top quality fish and will look forward to seeing you in this New Year of 2019 for some marvellous fishing. Our new 'SPRING LAKE' is filling fast and, all being well, we hope to introduce a few trout in the early part of spring, so watch this space! Flies at the moment are a bit of a mixed bag as they say but black is STILL the most popular choice of colour in the trout's eyes, as indeed it has been for a long time. As I write buzzers are still catching and some truly lovely fish have been landed by some lucky/skilled anglers.

Tight lines from Caroline & Annie for January.

Chalk Springs Arundel, West Sussex

December had been another mixed month weather-wise but the fishing has remained consistently good throughout. The usual goldhead damsels, hares' ears and a variety of stalking bugs have been the most effective patterns, with fish still coming out on dries as well. Goldhead daddy longlegs have been very effective too. Rainbows, Browns and a few Blues are all being caught, with the best this month just over 12lb, and we will be continuing to stock all three species throughout the winter.

Tactics for this time of the year don't really need to be much different from the rest of the year, as although there isn't as much natural food for the fish in the colder weather, the fish will still feed on natural imitations.

The annual Brass Monkeys competition was held recently. Twenty fishermen were drawn in pairs to battle for the trophy. Now in its 24th year, the competition was fierce but fun. Kev Hunt and Jimmy Madden were defending last year's title but it was Keith Potter and Brian Kentish (not in the same team) who started well. Keith had a lovely 10lb rainbow with Brian hooking a lovely 8lb'er. John Pearn also struck early with his Blue Rainbow of 7lb 5oz. However, one big fish in a pairing isn't always enough to win, so you need your partner to catch as well. After a very welcome lunch of fish and chips, the final whistle was blown at 2.30pm. At the weigh-in, Keith Potter and Steve Rule weighed in their 4-fish bag at a touch under 20lb, in second was Stew Pope and John Pearn with 15lb and in third was Paddy Hill and Brian Kentish with 13lb. Jimmy and Kev managed to scrape in 4th, just 2lb behind - a valiant attempt.

Although the fishery is generally a bit quieter at this time of the year, pre-booking is still recommended.....just in case! For a list of any fully booked dates and for any other information you need on prices or tactics, please have a look at our website.

Tight Lines, Darren and Ally



Brass Monkeys Winners 2018



Brian Kentish - Brass Monkeys



Danny Leung - 12lb 10z



John Pearn



Keith Potter



01892 826041 / 07951 304515

f www.springhilltroutwaters.co.uk





Brick Farm Lakes



Come and catch one of our Browns!

Oliver & Sons

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- Tickets from only £25
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Park Bottom Arundel West Sussex BN18 0AA
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Angling Societies



14 miles of River and 7 Lakes containing:

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MEMBERSHIP FEE 2017/18 SEASON

Senior Membership – £60 + £10 Joining fee

Ladies Membership – £20 + £10 Joining fee

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

The Linton Angling Society - Membership Vacancies

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

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

e-mail: chris@lintonangling.co.uk

www.lintonangling.co.uk



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.



Normanhurst Lake



Wishing Tree Reservoir



River Rother

For further information please contact:
Chris Pagan 07429 655237 Steve Potter 07935 268174
Postal enquiries: S Corke, 153 Athelstan Road, Hastings TN35 5JF

hastingsandbexhillangling.co.uk



Lure Fishing



Soft plastics rule

Fry feeding

As a result of last years 'super summer' we are seeing massive shoals of coarse fish fry on all our reservoirs. On one of our local waters the fry shoals are so dense that my echo sounders signal was unable to penetrate through them to see the bottom!

The vast numbers of these small fish has made it especially difficult to catch perch or pike this year. You won't be surprised to hear that perch feast on fry but pike? Experienced pike anglers will tell you how difficult pike can be when they're focused on fry feeding often ignoring larger food items, including my lures.

I mentioned in one of my previous articles how difficult it was to catch decent perch on Grafham reservoir due to the explosion of perch fry. I'm now hearing this is also the situation on the Farmoor reservoirs in Oxfordshire.

Bewl Water

I've been spending quite a lot of time on Bewl recently with my good friend Gary Collins fishing for pike, with limited success. I'm rather confused as to their whereabouts! The pike used to hang around the basin and the cages but not so much now it seems? You see a few things have changed since I last seriously fished at Bewl for pike.

Location, location

1] The fish rearing cages are no longer being used so there's no food going into the surrounding area which made this such a 'hot spot' in the past. That's not to say that the structure doesn't still attract perch which in turn draws pike, so it's always worth spending some time fishing there.

2] A few years ago bream entered Bewl via the pumping from the river Medway. The in-flow is through 'Goose Creek' at the far end of 'Bewl Straight' towards the 'Rosemary Lane' end. This area now has a healthy population of food fish which could mean the pike are more likely to be found there?

3] Apparently the bream have now spread throughout the reservoir and have 'hybridised'



Gary Collin with his 'big fish'

with the roach creating an abundance of 1lb 'bite sized' fish, this is an exciting prospect for the future. The only problem is I don't know much about where hybrids like to be, depth of water etc., and where the food fish are the pike won't be far behind.

4] With the warmer water temperatures this autumn the fish are very spread throughout the reservoir, and throughout the depths, plus they don't have to be near the bottom either!

5] As I've already said I believe a lot of the pike are 'on the fry' but there is always the potential that some of the larger 'specimen' fish are predating on the stocked rainbow trout. These stock fish vary in size from 2lb to 3lb, not an easy meal unless you're a mid-double or bigger. There are always a few 20lb pike in Bewl plus I believe the occasional beast over 30lbs, but as I'm experiencing at present, it's a bit of a 'needle in a haystack' trying to find them!

Our approach

We started on Bewl with a two pronged approach, Gary concentrated on fishing his lures 'slow and low' just scratching them along the bottom. While I tried a more active approach which saw me making long casts followed by a long, slow continuous retrieve. This was designed to lift my lure several feet off the bottom before pausing to allow it to flutter back to the deck. This retrieve would see my lure searching the bottom 5 or 6 feet of water, in whatever depth we were fishing. We tried a variety of spoons, spinnerbaits and soft plastics, but, all the pike were caught on soft plastics. Gary very quickly scored on his Fox Replicant, two or three jacks later and this lure was almost permanently attached to his trace.

Success at last

We were drifting into a bay, heading towards the bank in 10 foot of water when Gary set the hook in a good pike. He shouted "big fish, big fish, get the net"! I quickly scooped a super fish of 20lb 8oz caught on, you guessed it, a 14cm Fox Replicant lure, not a big bait by any means, but not small either, confusion still rules!

Rutland beast

I had a brief interlude from Bewl the other weekend when myself and two of the "Amigos" fished Rutland Water. Not much to report on our account but while we were there Jamie Potts caught an absolute beast of a pike. Jamie was finesse fishing for perch using a 9cm shad. The pike was in superb condition and weighed 36lbs, what's more Jamie had to 'hand land' it, as unbeknown to him his friends, in another boat, had nicked his landing net as a joke, but now the joke's on them, 'Well played that man!'



Jamie Potts and his 36lb 1oz 'Rutland Beast'

The reservoir angler's mantra

For as many years as I can remember, the one thing that keeps all of my keen fishing friends focused, when the going gets tough is the saying, "it only takes one fish" to change your day, or in Jamie's case the season!

'tight lines'. Andy Lush

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Fly Fishing

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

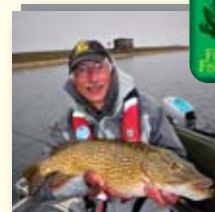
Trout

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

Carp & Pike

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

For details contact Andy Lush on 01892 528677



Andy's shop The Friendly Fisherman in Tunbridge Wells TN1 2PS stocks a huge variety of freshwater tackle, especially for Carp.
Plus a vast selection of the lure fishing and fly fishing gear.
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Medway and Kent Sea Fishing Group



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

Welcome to 2019! It has been another disappointing winter for the cod fishing so far. A small number of codling have been caught from a variety of venues but none in any numbers. They have been averaging around 2 – 3 lbs. I have had many conversations recently as to why the cod fishing has been so poor in recent years. Lots of debate about the 'famine' and the reasons! It would seem that the Sussex coast has produced more than the Kent coast. Cod are being caught further north but they seem reluctant to venture further south than the Southern North Sea / Thames Estuary. There is no doubt that the significant rise in foreign trawlers in the Channel has not helped and one hopes (!) that Brexit will restrict non – English boats from fishing in our waters. However, at the time of writing, the whole Brexit saga is in utter chaos and one fears what the final outcome will be, not just for fishing! The whiting have never failed to show up although the numbers are beginning to thin out a little and we can now look forward to the arrival of the dabs and flounders. The current sea temperatures are still relatively high at around ten degrees. Don't forget you are most welcome to send your sea catch photos to the Informer! Send by email or by Facebook messenger!

THAMES report courtesy of Wayne May

The codling have slowed up in the estuary over the last week, mainly due to adverse weather and the ability to get out on the charter boats. Early in the month saw an excellent run on the whiting and dabs mixed with the odd codling, bass and thornbacks. Worm baits being preferred over the squid and fish baits. Inside the Thames at Gravesend, near the B&Q store Imperial Park, is fishing excellent. One trip producing over a 100 whiting and dabs to four anglers, prawns and lugworm both working well, although expect some tackle loses at this venue due to the steep weeded bank 60yds out. Worth also checking the low tide prior to fishing for any discarded trollies. St Clements reach, Greenhithe is worth a try using ragworm for the dabs and two hook flapping traces. Whiting are abundant here and they are preferring lugworm baits. Our largest whiting so far was from the Gravesend venue and it weighed in at almost 2lb!



MEDWAY report courtesy of Daniel Terry

"Decided on giving Grain a go to get hopefully away from the abundance of whiting down river. The Medway has been alive with whiting as of late with a lot of peoples trips resulting in one double shot after another. As soon as the sun is gone they are there in force. Very few flounders of any size being caught at the moment so going to Grain they were my target with hopefully a few late bass for our efforts. I wasn't wrong! It was a cracker of a day. I arrived around 10am with my fellow angler Andy Cross to get set up for low water which was just touching shore. From the start my rods just didn't stop! It started with bass and just continued all the way through the tide. Andy sat quiet for a while but it soon picked up for him in a day that resulted in a new PB bass for him around high tide. Both sizeable bass came from around high with me having 3 decent flounders at low. The end tally finished with me having 7 healthy bass between 41cm and 30cm and 10 tiny basslets, 3 flounders at 34cm, 30cm and 28cm and 1 whiting. Andy's final tally ended at 6 healthy bass between 44cm and 23cm and a few basslets, 1 flounder and 2 whiting. It was a very enjoyable day. Andy was over the moon with his PB, it put up a great fight on light gear. I was well chuffed to have such a good flounder session myself. Let's hope it's good all round and a few of us start seeing some cod through the winter months. Our rag and lug were from Medway Tackle Supplies."

Local shops for your tackle and bait are Medway Tackle Supplies at Gillingham 01634 570740 and Anglers Den.



SHEPPEY report courtesy of Sheppey Angling

Plenty of whiting and a good number of dabs and flounders being caught from the marks on the North shore. Some good sized whiting too among their numbers. Local boats are finding good numbers of whiting and dabs along with the odd small codling, thornbacks and dogfish. January should see increasing numbers of flatfish moving within reach of the shore anglers and hopefully the odd codling or two! Sheppey Angling can provide all your tackle and top quality fresh and frozen baits. Call Mick on 01795 661089.



THANET report courtesy of Fishermens Corner

The dabs are slowly increasing in numbers off Ramsgate's East pier. Along with the dabs are the occasional flounder, dogfish and small bass. The whiting numbers have dropped in daylight and fishing from low water up will give a better chance of avoiding big numbers of whiting. The best tides to do this are the tides mid cycle. Fresh and Frozen black lug are working well and tipping with a small slither of fish bait, can pick out the better fish. Fisherman's Corner is located a short walk from the pier and has a great selection of bait and tackle 01843 582174.



DEAL report courtesy of David Chamberlain

Angling prospects for January are mainly dependent on the weather. Although the sea temperature has been high for winter, a cold snap decreases it drastically and puts the inshore fish off the feed. Dabs are in tip-top condition at the moment and are worth targeting using scaled down gear. Size 4 hooks baited with lug, squid or slithers of sprat make a useful bait. The whiting shoals are decreasing in numbers and size, although dogfish, flounders and rockling are there to be caught. Work on Deal pier's stem has been finished with a fresh surface and seating completed both sides. The lower deck is still closed and new railings are being constructed on the seaward side. It is hoped that the deck grating is replaced soon and anglers will be able to fish from this popular platform in time for the coming thornback ray season. Channel Angling at the pier entrance can provide your tackle and top quality bait. Call Fred on 01304 373104.

DOVER report courtesy of Channel Angling

Plenty of whiting, pouting, dogfish and a good sprinkling of dabs from the pier. One or two small codling but not in any numbers. Whether we will see some in the New Year is anyone's guess. However, the first half of the pier is showing some nice flatfish and these numbers will hopefully increase this month. Scaling down the tackle with smaller hooks and baits should do the trick. The advantage of fishing the first corner, between the first two benches is that it is a short walk and can be fished throughout the tide.

Call Channel Angling on 01304 203742 for all your bait and tackle requirements.



HYPHE report

Lots of whiting, some good sized, are still being caught although the numbers do seem to be thinning out. Still dogfish, pouting and a few schoolie bass being caught. There have been some spamic catches of small codling from the beaches, but, like everywhere else rather hit and miss. This month will see the arrival of the dabs and flounders. Local tackle shops for your tackle and bait are Dens Tackle 01303 267053 and Best Buddies 01303 253881.



HASTINGS courtesy of Hastings Angling Centre

A month of wind has meant that hardly a boat has been afloat for weeks now so nothing much to report. On the beaches the stormy conditions have also curtailed much of the pleasure angling effort with only the matches drawing numbers of anglers. See match reports.

Bass are still about and being caught in some numbers and quality, they like the rough weather. Whiting are still in large numbers with the quality improving noticeably as the little ones stay out to sea more in the rough seas. Fishing could be good given a decent lull. No sign of codling although just the odd one being had.

When the boats do get out pollack on the deep wrecks will be the prime target in the absence of the cod. The wrecks will at least have had a good rest.

South Coast Beach Championship 8th December

The match was fished in very windy conditions, gusting a full westerly gale, and very rough seas with some very big surf. The extremely tough conditions put several competitors off and quite a few more retired early. In some areas, the harbour in particular near the new arm, were almost impossible to fish with the huge waves burying tackle in the shingle with even the best casters struggling. Other zones were more amenable and some good bags of whiting were caught along with a few bass and dogfish. The rough conditions really put the flatfish off

and few were caught.

The winner collecting the trophy and £500 first prize was Julian French with 28 fish coming from C section for 12lb 6oz, a good bag of whiting and a couple of dogfish. Ben Arnold was second with 20 fish for 10lb 7oz.

Best round fish (2lb 10oz bass) and veteran's prize went to Kerry Saint, who only a few drams away from second place.

Best flatfish, a flounder of 9.9oz went to Ralph Crosby.



Julian French



Nick May



Kerry - bass

A Section

- 1 - Luke Mooring 5lb 8oz
- 2 - Doug Thorpe 4lb 14oz

B. Section

- 1 - Colin Crosby 9lb 14oz
- 2 - Brett Cotter 4lb 4oz
- 3 - Kipper Coleman 3lb 13oz

C Section

- 1 - Ben Arnold 10lb 7oz 7dr
- 2 - Kerry Saint 10lb 7oz
- 3 - Richard Jacobs 8lb 14oz

D Section

- 1 - Steve Martin. 7lb 10oz
- 2 - Robert Harwood-Brown 7lb 5oz
- 3 - Jacob Gainey. 7lb 2oz

E Section

- 1 - Keith Erridge 9lb 1oz
- 2 - Dan Mogridge 8lb 13oz
- 3 - Mark Hinxman 8lb 6oz



Wes Seargeant

F Section

- 1 - Steve Swan 8lb 15oz
- 2 - Darren Bond 7lb 15oz
- 3 - Darren Newland 7lb 7oz

Hastings Angling Centre Beach Match Team - Runners up in National Final



Hastings Angling Centre Team



Hastings Angling Centre Beach Match team had a terrific result coming second in this year's SAMF National Sea League finals. Held in north Norfolk over the weekend of 24/25 November fishing the beaches of Cley, Salthouse and Kelling. 165 anglers from all over the country competed in the 33 teams which qualified from local leagues. Many of the best beach match anglers in the country took part.

The team of Colin and Ralph Crosby Mark Hinxman, Rex Palmer and Steve Martin went one better than last year's third place with a narrow second just one point more than the third team. They collected the Runners Up trophy and £1100 in prize money.

Fishing was very hard with anything very welcome and larger fish very rare, which makes the result even more creditable. The winners for the second year in succession were Prime Angling from West Sussex. That means both first and second teams qualified from the Asso Hastings League as did the fourth placed Deal 1919 team. Testimony to the quality of the anglers fishing locally. Next year's final is being held at Eastbourne/Pevensy bay – home turf!

Results:

1st	Prime Angling	89 points
2nd	Hastings Angling Centre	109
3rd	Ipswich Sea Angling Club	110
4th	Deal 1919	117
5th	Team Breakaway	129



Rex

Sheppey Angling

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Sea and Freshwater Angling at affordable prices



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DUNGENESS Latest catch reports on www.seagullfishingtackle.com
Happy New Year to you all and let's hope you get some fishing time in 2019. 2018 was a great year for some species not so good for others as the climate changes. The big winner has been bass, 2018 has been the best year I have ever known for the sheer numbers of bass. Only a few cod have been reported so far this winter...but with few anglers attempting the beach due to the challenging weather...we still have time to see a change. Fresh bait is another challenge it doesn't get any easier to find worms...a good bait digger is worth his weight in gold. I can't wait, we will soon see the days getting longer and we will see what this year brings.

BEACH REPORT

The last month has been good, plenty of fish, whiting, bass, pouting and dogfish plus a few codling. The only problem has been some extreme weather.

Here are a couple of the December reports coming into my site...

Colin gets bonus points for trying: I had this report in Sunday night from Colin Hemsworth...

"Hi Tony, I fished Dengemarsh yesterday, I thought I would try for a cod and was casting out a fair distance with cocktail baits, squid and lug, mackerel squid etc...had a few whiting in the daylight and one bass on lug as it got dark also an eel caught on squid. As night fell the whiting were on the baits in seconds, not many sizeable ones but definitely kept me entertained, busy and warm feeling in. I packed up around 1 and headed home but all in all a good day, thanks for the great lug and see you soon. Colin"



The 'Piranhas' are out there! Had this report in last night from Neil Rodwell... 'Piranhas' ideal for fish cakes...



"Hi Tony. Thanks for the bait today. Thought I'd take the opportunity of using the weather window and had a go behind the station. Fished from 10:30 till 2. Cut the day short as the start of the rising tide bought the weed in and it became almost unfishable. Also pulled in a lot of rubbish from plastic bags filled with water to tangled balls of fishing line which added to the headache. On the bright side caught whiting all day with triple shots being

bought in every cast, some of which were big. Even the live bait rig came in with a double shot which is strange as the top hook didn't have bait on it! They must be hungry! The weather was nice and the rain seemed to stay out in the channel so still got my fishing fix! Will speak soon. Regards. Neil"

Well done Colin...hard work pays! I had this 'heartening' report in from Colin Hemsworth this afternoon...

"Hi Tony, I fished near the station yesterday, arrived a bit later then planned and got set up, two rods with pulley rigs. I had some lug still from the last session that had been in the fridge all week, a bit past their best but still stiffened up a bit to go on the hook. I also had some crab cart which I'd made into sausages and first tried casting this with a single lug on top, but with the wind my distance wasn't that great so swapped to straight lug baits and got a few extra yards. Through the day there was a steady stream of

whiting, late afternoon I reeled in and felt something on and was very happy to pull out a 2lb codling, got very excited and got the baits out again but that was it until it got dark and had another 2lb codling. I stayed out late in the hope of hooking a biggun but that was my lot apart from more whiting and a dogfish. Hopefully they'll be more to come this season! Will be down soon for another try. Colin."



BEACH OUTLOOK FOR JANUARY

It is very frustrating, the weather we need to bring fish to the beach puts anglers off...yes it is tough but you can reap big rewards. A south westerly blow churns up the beach creates great fishing conditions, so let's hope these conditions continue into the new year...and you never know you could get lucky and catch a cod.

Best Baits

Use whatever washes up on the beach 'shellfish' are great baits. Worm baits are traditional lugworm, ragworm, fresh or frozen it all works, bulked out with squid.

BOAT REPORT

Here are a few of the December reports coming into my site...

Anthony...Pushing the envelope. I had this in from Anthony this morning out on Peganina (07989778361) from Rye last night on a late season conger hunt...

"Absolutely tremendous effort from the lads last night in torrential rain! 6 eels landed - top 3 weighing in at 26, 46 and 48lb"

There are a few about...fit fish. I had this report in this morning from Elizabeth Jane out yesterday...

"Trevor on Elizabeth Jane Dungeness reports seeing a couple of codling yesterday Best one of 7lbs falling to James Miller from Sussex."

Just wait till the wind drops... I had this report just in from Anthony out on Peganina (07989778361) from Rye...

"Making the best of the last day of fine weather. Loads of fish all day, unfortunately only the 1 codling caught by myself fishing uptide on straight lug, also had a lovely spur."



BOAT OUTLOOK FOR JANUARY

We have had had some great fishing...then the weather broke... it's tough just to get afloat...yes there are a few cod out there, but how many?

Best Baits

If you are going to 'tough' it out a cod, well the 'classics' work, squid, cuttlefish and lugworm.

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SAM'S FISHING JOURNAL

courtesy of Sam Cox

Bass fishing 2018 revealed - PART ONE

Primarily I bass fish for sport, I enjoy the chess game of attempting to work out where and when the fish will be. There are so many elements to angling, so many variables that as an angler, nature has to be used to one's advantage.

However I do enjoy eating bass from time to time, and will defend anglers' rights to take sensible numbers of bass for the table. I have a rough rule that I do try and abide by, over five it goes back alive! These fish are good breeding stock. Ideal eating size to me is between two and a half pounds and five pounds.

NOW TO THE TOPIC

My 2018 bassing started halfway through the first moult of the shore crabs in May. The location was Reculver, under those iconic and historic towers.

This is a shallow water mark fringed with rocks and rack weed. An ideal habitat for crabs. I chose an incoming tide at around 4 hours flood. It's just too shallow to fish hard to the rocks at low water.

The kit I used was a light pair of carbon uptiders with glass tips for sensitivity. The glass tip also helps when playing a fish at close quarters as it's soft and has more give than carbon helping to absorb any lunges the fish may make.

End tackle was simple, a running leger with a dropper to the weight a few inches longer than the hook length. The reason for the dropper is to help lift the bait from the bottom. The dropper to the weight is tied from line weaker than the main line so it gives if the rig gets caught in the rocks while playing a fish.

In front of me was a gap in the weed, like a small bay in shape, to the right of me was a wooden groyne. Both spots would be good areas for bass to forage for crabs. A nice big soft crab was selected from my bait bucket and nicked onto a 5/0 Cox & Rawle original up tide hook and gently lobbed a few yards in front of the weed. The rod was then placed in the rest. Before setting up the second rod I needed to take a pee, so after a quick look around I discreetly went about my business against the groyne. Then it happened! A cracking take that smashed the tip over and lifted the rod butt at least a foot off the ground. I grabbed the rod before the whole rest was taken over but missed the fish and nearly peed all down my jeans! Now I never learn this lesson, by holding your rod you increase your hook ups by at least 70%. I just find it boring, unless there's lots of fish around.

Once I had set up the second rod, I decided to fish at a tad more range, then I could alternate my first set up between the bay in the weed and the wooden groyne.

After just one 60 yard cast on the second rod it quickly became apparent that May weed was going to be an issue. So I decided to fish just one rod and to sit on it as I didn't want to miss any more bites.

The next five casts produced two small bass, one of about a pound and a half and the other may have gone two pounds. Even after 37 years of bass fishing, I'm always amazed how even a small bass can smash your rod round.

As often happens with bass, as quickly as they arrive they are gone. Over an hour passed without a bite, then my pal Jack Wells paid me a visit with his two kids. "Jack your timing is impeccable, I'm dying of hunger and thirst, would you mind watching the rod while I run to the cafe?" I asked. Jack was happy to oblige being a keen angler himself.

On my return Jack was re-baiting my rod, "I got one!" he said and proudly showed me a picture on his phone. A bass of only maybe a pound but it was Jack's first bass of the year and it made him smile.

Jack's kids were getting bored so left me to it. I stayed another hour into the ebb tide but the bass were not playing ball so I too packed up and left.

Bass can be fickle fish, that day they just wanted nice big soft crabs and would not touch fresh peeler crab. I've had days on the boat when they will only take rag worms, and other days when only hermit crabs will get you a take. This is all part of the rich tapestry of bass fishing and for me what gets me to sleep most nights dreaming of that elusive double!

Best wishes, Sam Cox



KENT BOAT REPORT

courtesy of Jason Parrott

It has been the strangest early winter period that I can remember. We are still feathering for mackerel and small bass whilst catching herrings and whittings. It makes for good fun on the slack water. As of yet no cod in numbers showing just the odd one here and there. We are having to make do with some fine channel whiting which make excellent eating. Bass are still showing with regular fish over 5 to 6 lb per trip. Smoothounds are virtually gone but the odd one is still showing to mid figures. They are always a favourite of mine and it is good to see the rod bend and a good hound netted. Skate still seem to be about in good numbers when the weather let's you get to them. It can be so hard to get motivated when every day seems to be blowing so let's hope it blows some cod our way!

Happy New Year from all of us on the Lady Ann and we look forward to seeing you onboard in 2019! Best wishes, Jason



If you fancy a day afloat with Jason on the Lady Ann, give him a call on 07966 273650

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