

FRESHWATER INFORMER



FREE



*This issue is in memory
of Jim Smith,
July 1944 - December 2019*



*Jim's beloved River Ouse.
Photo courtesy of Stewart Allum*

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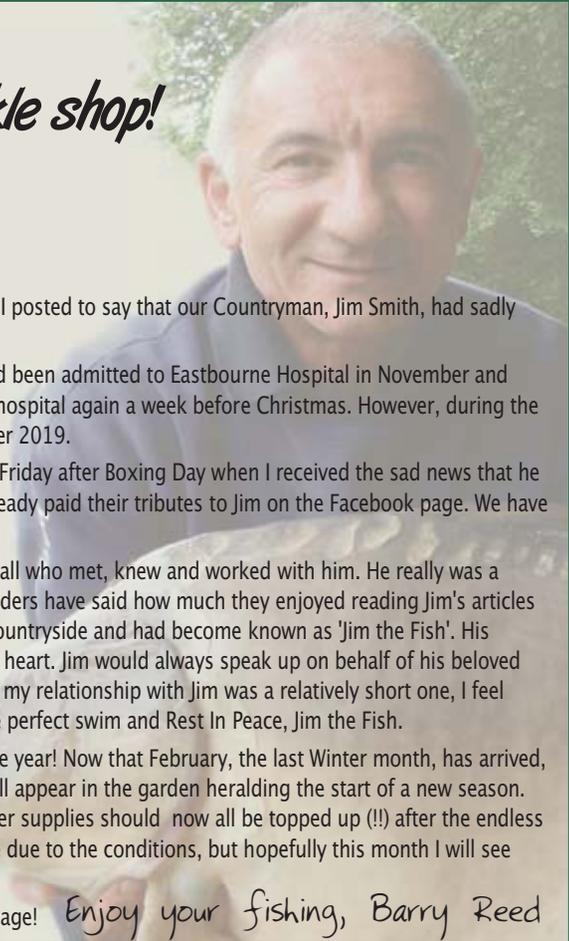
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Hello and welcome to the February issue of the Freshwater Informer!

Many readers, who also follow the magazine's Facebook page, will be aware that just after Christmas, I posted to say that our Countryman, Jim Smith, had sadly passed away.

Unfortunately, the sad news came too late to place in the January magazine due to print dates. Jim had been admitted to Eastbourne Hospital in November and after a couple of weeks treatment, returned home. Jim received care at home, but, was readmitted to hospital again a week before Christmas. However, during the Christmas period, Jim's condition deteriorated and he passed away peacefully on Friday 27th December 2019.

I visited Jim in hospital on the day before Christmas Eve and I was on my way to see him again on the Friday after Boxing Day when I received the sad news that he had passed away. His passing will leave a big hole in many peoples' hearts and lots of people have already paid their tributes to Jim on the Facebook page. We have a special Tribute page to Jim and an Obituary to him written by Stewart Allum further in this issue.

As many have said, Jim was truly one of a kind. He was a true gentleman and very much respected by all who met, knew and worked with him. He really was a Countryman in every sense. His knowledge of wildlife, fauna and flora was unsurpassed and many readers have said how much they enjoyed reading Jim's articles on the Sussex Countryside during the past year. Jim had spent his lifetime living and working in the countryside and had become known as 'Jim the Fish'. His working life was spent with the River Board and Jim had all rivers, but especially the Ouse, close to his heart. Jim would always speak up on behalf of his beloved Ouse and 'bring to book' those he felt were undermining the river's integrity and well being. Although my relationship with Jim was a relatively short one, I feel privileged to have met this wonderful man and have an insight in to his amazing life. May you find the perfect swim and Rest In Peace, Jim the Fish.

I hope you have all got back in to the swing of things after what seems to be the 'longest' month of the year! Now that February, the last Winter month, has arrived, we can set our sights on the coming Spring, now just a few short weeks away. The first of the buds will appear in the garden heralding the start of a new season. We can all begin to feel more positive having survived the Winter and all that it put before us. Our water supplies should now all be topped up (!!) after the endless winter rains and we can but hope for a warm summer! Many of the rivers have almost been unfishable due to the conditions, but hopefully this month I will see some more of your river reports which are always most welcome!

Don't forget that you can send your catch reports by email to the address below or via the Facebook page! *Enjoy your fishing, Barry Reed*

Letter to the Editor

Robin Piper sent me a letter telling about his latest trip to Claygate Lakes in Kent:

"Dear Barry, I managed to get out at last due to a small break in the weather with less cloud, mild temperatures (10 degrees) and the wind had fined away to almost nothing. I made my way to Claygate Lakes and on arrival there were just two other anglers fishing, so the choice of where to fish was not a difficult one today. I chose Lake Eva, peg 34. The swims were soggy underfoot, but, this swim was one of those with new paving slabs put down so at least I had a firm standing to fish from.

Things looked to be ok from the start with some colour in the water and just a slight drift to my left. From the start, I saw fish jumping by the far bank so I tackled up with my 10 ft leger rod, 8 lbs bs Maxima line with a running half ounce Pallatrax Stonze weight and a size 12 Pallatrax Gripz hook. I began feeding with bits of crayfish tails and cast to the far bank and waited for the tip to pull round. After forty odd minutes and no bites, I came up with a Plan B, so out went a few bits of bread on to the surface and up came the carp, no surprise to me! Away went the leger rod and out came the 11 ft waggler rod with just a size 12 Pallatrax hook tied direct to the main line.



6lbs 2ozs

Within minutes, I had a take on the surface bait and first fish was a 5lbs 12ozs common carp, which was followed by many mirrors between 5 and 6 lbs. I continued to keep the shoal busy in my swim with the sliced bread keeping their interest. I am glad to say that all these fish were still in a feeding mood, even when I packed up as I had run out of bread.



5lbs 12oz

I fished from 10am to 2pm so it was just a short session as time and bait had run out. However, today's bag consisted of 51 lbs 12 ozs of mainly F1s with some good carp I knew would be about even for early January. There are times when floating baits don't seem to catch all that well, however that changed for me today!" Robin Piper



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Fishery Reports

Elphicks Fisheries Horsmonden, Kent



Dan Fisk 28lb Prairie Lake 01.20



Steve Adcock Pullens Lake 38lb 8oz 12.19



Marcus Taylor 35lb North Lake 12.19



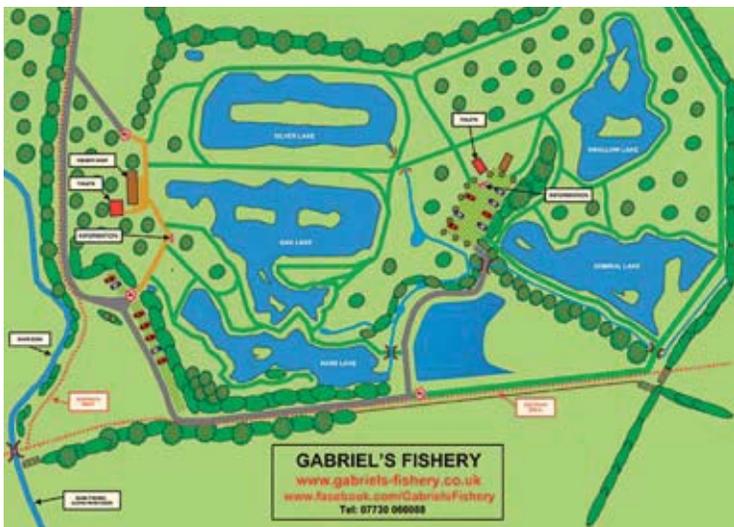
Joe Thelwell Prairie Lake 01.20

Gabriels Fishery Edenbridge, Kent

Fishing on the River Eden has seen some lively catches of pike. 10lb and 12lb pike have been caught regularly throughout the winter months. Roach and rudd have been caught along with perch to 2 1/2 lbs.

The lakes have had very few visitors and those who fished for just three to four hours often blanked. While visitors who fished a full session caught one or two of various species.

Both Oak and Admiral Lake have had the most attention. Oak lake has seen 10lb and low 20lbs on the bank. Most people spoke of having a bite in a session and one in three would land a fish. Admiral lake has seen several 30lb fish on the bank but again the ratio of fish landed has been about one fish landed to four people fishing. Everyone has reported fish movement though longer light days is what the fish are looking for.



Wylands International AC Battle, East Sussex

FIELD LAKE This lake has fished very well over the month with anglers using simple float methods and they have not had to wait long for a bite. This lake is very popular with the younger generation of anglers with large amounts of fish being caught

HOUSE LAKE has been as popular as ever with some very nice specimens being landed including several twenty plus carp. As the weather has been so mild, the margins and shallower water have fished very well.

MIDDLE LAKE has fished its socks off with many personal bests being recorded this month. In the warm sun, the fish have been bathing in the upper layers and the carp have responded very well to surface fishing.



KELL LAKE is as tricky as ever, but this said many anglers have had cracking sessions this month with a few anglers landing six or seven fish and several 30lb plus have been banked.



Brian Collins - Kell Lake 25lb

MAISIES LAKE has produced some stunning carp to mid twenty and some cracking large 50lb plus cats. Please remember to pre book on this lake as swims are limited. A big tip for this lake is not to fish near the reeds as this just results in lost fish.

THE SPECI LAKES New Spec has been fantastic through the month with some stunning carp up to 32 lb being landed. It has fished very well and has been very popular through this month. Large beds of boilies seem to be doing the trick on new and old speci at the moment.



OLD SNAKE is open as usual and makes a fantastic place for a few bites. We are taking private match bookings and these are going from strength to strength and some fantastic bags are being weighed in, sometimes 200 lb plus!

ROSIES Bags of up to nine crucian carp have been landed in a session on various methods including method feeder and float fished worm. The carp have been as hungry as ever with many being caught up to 22lb.

Accommodation packages are available from £125 to include all fishing for the duration of your stay. For more details or to book, please contact 01424 893394.

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Saturday 29th February 2020
Sunday 21st March 2020
Saturday 11th April 2020
Saturday 2nd May 2020
Saturday 23rd May 2020

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SPECIMEN LAKE 2 3.5 acres

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Extra rod £3

24 hour ticket: £25.00 Night ticket: £20.00

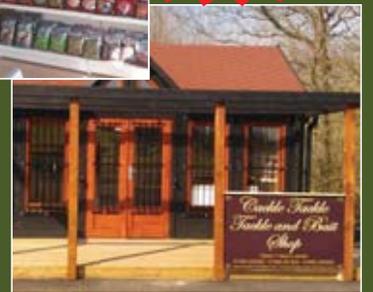
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Fishery Reports

Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society



A cracking winter sunset shot of Barden Lake taken by Josh King.

THE RIVER MEDWAY has been very hit and miss over the festive period but a few anglers have braved the slacks in the very coloured water. **Jason Craven** continues his fine run of form with the pike, taking a nice 15lb fish. **Nick Dann** has been catching some nice bags of roach to 10oz on the whip on the upper stretches of our waters. **Kristy Knowlden** moved from the Old Ballast Pit to the river and was rewarded with a nice 7lb Bream and a 13lb Carp. **Josh King** has been catching plenty of the last year's stockiest from the Old Ballast Pit. **Matthew Wakeford** had a cracking perch of 2lb 14oz and another report of a 3lb fish came in.

BARDEN LAKE has been unfishable due to the water levels but on Sunday 12th January, **Ben Groombridge** braved the coloured water and was rewarded with five pike to 10lb 8oz. Some dates of note for this year are the AGM for members only will be Thursday 21st May from 6.30pm at Tonbridge Angels Football ground.

Our Open Day will be held at the New Lagoon on Saturday 22nd August from 10am.



MATCH RESULTS:

Christmas Match - Bungalows - 8/12/19

- 1st - John Cooper - 7lb 10oz
- 2nd - Ditch Howard - 5lb 3oz
- 3rd - Bob Doyle - 3lb 15oz
- 4th - Trevor Oldfield - 2lb 12oz (2lb 7oz Chub)

New Year Match - Sports ground - 5/1/20

- 1st - Mick Smith - 13lb 10oz (13lb 8oz Carp)
- 2nd - Stuart Cottingham - 4lb 1oz
- 3rd - Ray Berry - 2lb 15oz



Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hawkhurst, Kent

The lakes re-opened on 31st January so we do not have any catch reports in as yet, but we look forward to welcoming anglers back onto our banks!

Over our closed period, we carried out nettings to Main Lake, Dove Lake and Specimen Lake to remove nuisance fish and also carry out minor repair work to swims. We removed a lot of debris from Main Lake in particular, as well as erosion control around the islands on Main Lake. We also spent time cutting back trees to make it easier to cast.

Waterside café: Our on-site café is open for breakfast and lunch service, 9am -4pm, Wednesdays to Sundays.

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

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

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Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

There have been some hardy souls that have continued to fish between December and mid January (as of writing this) what with the temperatures having been mild for this time of year. As usual at this time of year, Ben and I undertake a large amount of maintenance work on and around the fishery.

Here is a little run down of the work completed so far on Eden Pond, Daughters Lake, Moat Pond and Tuscany Lake. We have, as of writing this, cut back all the marginal growth and thinned out the reeds between swims, repaired and wood chipped swims where needed, cut back a lot of over-hanging tree branches above and around where anglers cast and removed any snags that were in the water and dealt with repairing some pot holes that were left after the dramatic amount of rainfall we had just before Christmas. Also, as of writing this, we are repairing some damaged marginal areas on Jeff's Lake caused by natural erosion over the years. We started this winter work in November and we plan to complete all maintenance work on the fishery before March. Please note that all lakes are open whilst we carry out the winter maintenance.



Daryl McLaren 19-01 Majors Lake



Gareth Osmond 21-14



Mat Watson Dughters Lake



Michael Molloy 19-13 Majors

There have been fish banked since we re-opened the fishery after the Christmas break, here is a quick over-view of some catches. **SNIPE LAKE** has not been fished too much but the first fish of the year was banked at a new PB of 36lb 4oz for **Stuart Green** and **Scott Harvey** who, after seeing a fish show from swim 5, upped sticks and moved to the showing fish on the other side of the lake and banked a well deserved common of 24lb. There have been a few catfish shows on **TUSCANY LAKE**. **Peter Ellis** thought he would try for a January cat and was lucky enough to bank one at 30lb. Jeff's Lake has been producing F1's and a few bream, **Chris Bacon** has done a couple of day sessions and banked 10 F1's on his last visit. Moat Pond has produced carp to 8lb and some silvers. **DAUGHTERS LAKE** has not been fished much but **Matt Watson** had a nice mirror and **Terry Edwards** had a small common. **EDEN POND** gave up a 6lb 12oz common for Sam Matthey. Majors Lake has been fishing well for both pike and carp, **Gareth Osmond** and girlfriend Emma have been doing well with pike ranging from just over 8lb, some mid doubles and up to 21-14, **Chris Bacon** had a PB of 16lb, **Steven Nicholas** had 5 pike to 12-08, **Michael Malloy** had one at 19-13, **Peter Mew** had a good session when he banked a pike of 12-05, 3 F1's to 3lb, 3 commons at 6lb, 7lb and 8lb and 7 bream to 4lb and a ghostie of 15-07 while **Daryl McLaren** banked a common of 15lb and 3 mirrors at 18-12, 19lb and 19-01.

Ben and I look forward to seeing you all on the banks very soon.



Peter Ellis 30lbs Winter catfish



Sam Matthey 6-12 Eden



Scott Harvey 24-00 Snipe



Stuart Green 36-04 pb Snipe



SPRING LAKE Despite adverse weather, the lake is fishing very well with some good quality carp to 15 lbs showing. Best areas are in the 60's with some nice perch to 3lbs caught on worm down the edge. Pinched bread on the bomb quite good when fished close to the islands, with corn and maggots also good baits.

BROOKHOUSE LAKE Swims close to the gap in the islands fishing best with worm, corn and maggots best baits

especially when fished on the bomb just off the islands. Try close in later in sessions with corn and maggots although feed should be kept to a minimum.

BURYWOOD LAKE Pegs on the car park side fishing best especially closer to the island. Smaller boilies working with a small PVA bag. Some nice grass carp to 20 lbs showing plus some good quality mirrors and commons

Match Result – Spring Lake

1. Ian Oliver (Framfield) 91-15-0
2. Nobby Whiteing (Hawthorn) 46-8-0
3. Alan Stewart (Hawthorn) 43-3-0
4. Dennis Cooper (Gunners FC) 37-11-0
5. John Oliver (Framfield) 35-10-0

Hartley Lands Fishery Cranbrook, Kent

It has been a busy Winter for us stocking some beautiful fish in to our specimen waters. We have just stocked two more 30s, one into Bramley and one into Henniker. That now completes the Henniker stocking and we hope to open on March 1st.

Last month saw us take delivery of another two 30lb carp, one has been put into Bramley and the other into Henniker. The Henniker stocking included 9 fish 20lb+ and one 30lb.



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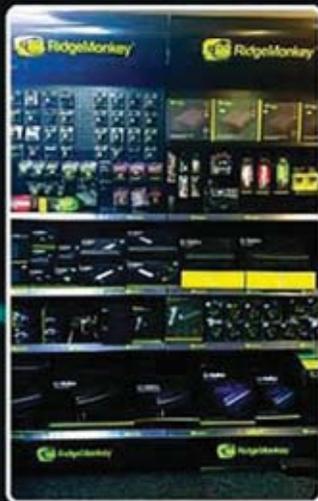
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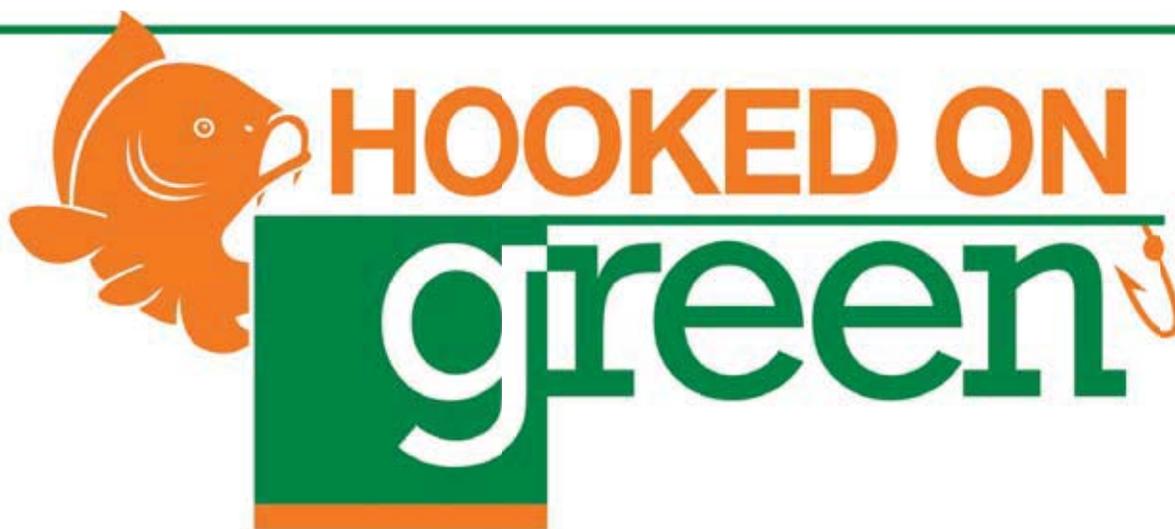
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IT DOESN'T ALWAYS GO TO PLAN!

Joanna Whelan sent in this great story. Fishing isn't always about the catching!

"I've always wanted to catch a catfish, they fascinate me, and there's something about their faces that I think is cute.

I was very lucky and my partner (Danny Church) brought me a lovely new rod and reel for Christmas with a 3lb test curve ready to catch my first catfish. So today, being New Year's Eve, we decided to go fishing at Hartley Lands Fishery and test out my new rod.



The lake was full of fish (as you can see from the photo) and we took every bait you could think of, sweet corn, lob worms, normal worms, boilies, pellets, ground bait, different flavoured goos, to name but a few. We had four rods between the two of us with different types of rigs and set ups, and kept changing our baits. I even learnt how to use and tie off pva bags!

We had such a lovely day sat on the bank, watching



our rods do nothing...because we both blanked! Usually one of us catches something, but this time round we both didn't catch a thing! Nothing! Nowt! Not even a little silver fish!!

But we didn't care, we got to see some of the local wildlife including both a kingfisher and heron...who both caught fish from the lake we were fishing! Typical!! Don't worry though, we'll be back out there in the New Year trying again."

Joanna and Danny



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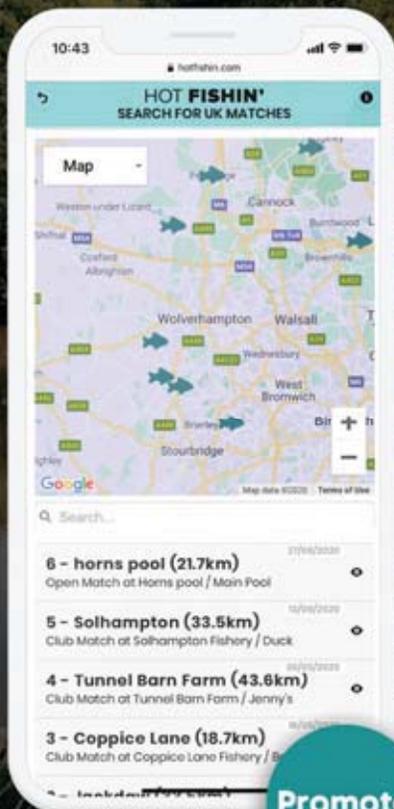
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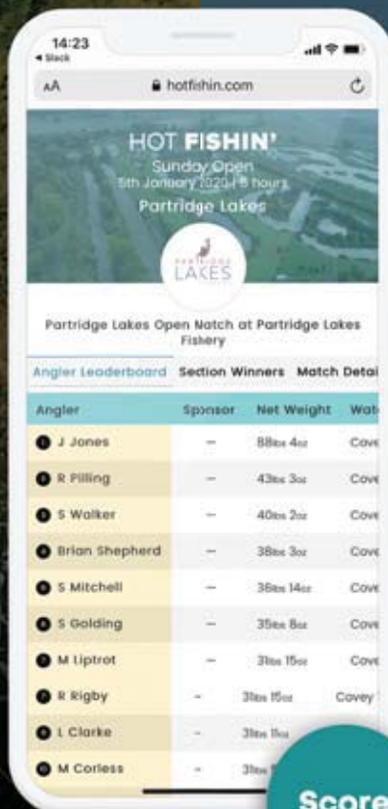
HOT FISHIN'

Do you organise fishing competitions?

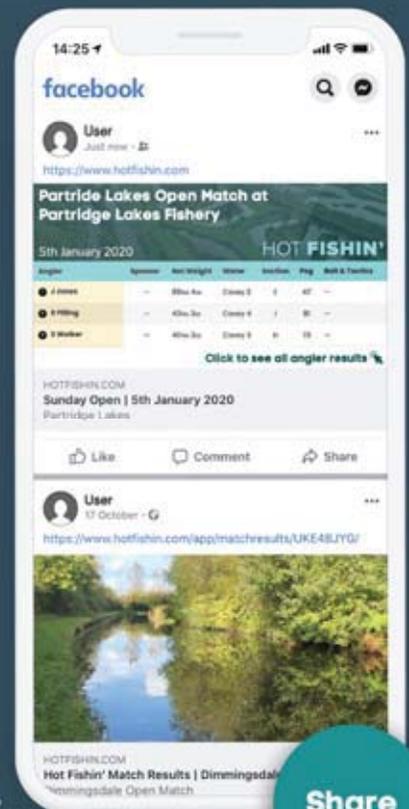
Hot Fishin' is a free, easy to use online tool for match organisers and anglers to promote, score and share the results of matches.



Promote



Score



Share

- Anglers can search for your matches
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- Score open, league, individual, team or pair matches
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- Share results easily to Facebook

As seen in



Create a free account at
www.hotfishin.com

POM'S PEG



THE 'LURE' OF PERCH FISHING

"When the going gets tough come these dark, wet and cold winter months, we can really struggle for a bite from many of our species, but one fish that is still keen to feed is the beautifully coloured perch. The perch is a true predator and tends to feed enthusiastically in daylight conditions, though they do seem to disappear in bright sunlight so watch your shadow, although it's not like we've seen much sun this Winter!"



Pom with a 3lbs 12ozs Tamar perch

What I love about lure fishing for this stunning and hard fighting fish is that you can only go for a short session and catch multiples, if you can locate the shoal, plus you don't need to take too much gear! A serious 'negative' observation in the modern angling scene is the tendency not to be mobile and, therefore, not be in a position to move quickly or try other swims. This is not the case in perch fishing as all you need is a light rod and reel, small bag or, even better, a rucksack of bits and bobs (selection of lures and spinners, Propolis, forceps/disgorger etc), a net and a small unhooking mat.

Location, like all fishing, is the key element and with perch it is no different whether it is on a lake, river or canal. Look for those structures that will hold the bait fish and you can pretty much guarantee the perch won't be far away. Even the bigger fish tend to shoal up together, which means if you bag one bigger fish you are likely to catch others of a similar size as they seem to stick together in year class. I've had many a session where this has happened and if you look at historic and more recent catch reports, it happens time and time again i.e. one big fish leads to several more in the same session. Tactically, it is not a complicated way to fish and is a great way to get juniors into angling because there is not a lot of waiting about for action as you are repeatedly casting, always on the move and frequently changing lures or spinners. It is also reasonably inexpensive, which again can be a barrier to newcomers to our sport whatever their age, in essence a win-win and can result in some great fun with consistent catching.



Ben with a fine specimen perch

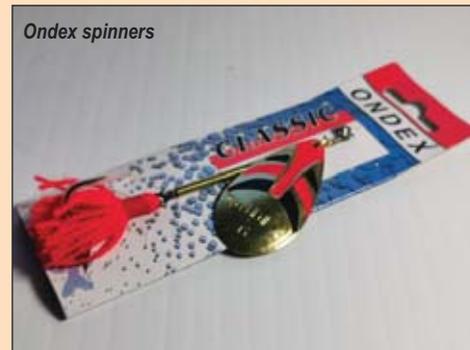
Alongside location, there are two things that I always focus on, one somewhat obvious, the other maybe not! Firstly, always have a selection of lures and spinners in different sizes and colours. I'm a huge fan of jig head style lures where the hook and weight are incorporated, and you thread on a 'jelly' type lure onto the hook. Colour and size variation remind me of fly fishing where just the smallest tweak can make a huge difference on the day. Colours, I have two favourites. The first being orange and the second being white. However, I always have back ups in sizes and colours, but, like in all of my angling, I never look to over-complicate it, especially as the choices available seem to go on and on!

With the jig head approach, you have the option to sink and draw where you reel in, stop and let the lure settle to the bottom, pick the tip up and reel again before again stopping. This means the lure appears to be 'struggling' and attracts a vicious bite with this happening consistently just as you pick up the tip to start to reel again – mega exciting!

The more traditional approach to lure fishing is the age-old art of spinning. Again, such a simple and easy way to catch our stripey quarry where the only complicated bit is trying to decide which spinners to invest in with so many now on the market! I've always sought to stick with spinners that go some way to replicate the perch's staple



Jig Heads and Lures



Ondex spinners

diet and that very much includes roach and rudd and with that I will always carry Ondex spinners in my bag. Such a successful and simple spinner in Silver (Roach) or Bronze (Rudd), they cast well on light gear and you can 'feel' them on the retrieve as they throb through the water – that must draw the hungry perch!

I mentioned a second area on which I focus and that is ground baiting your swim. This is not a standard perch tactic, but is incredibly effective because what it can do is draw in small shoals of bait fish which are attracted to and feed on the groundbait, which then draws in the perch who are hunting the bait fish. It really can concentrate a feeding zone and time after time I have drawn my lure or spinner through the area that I have been ground-baiting to be rewarded by some stunning perch. To be fair, it really does make common sense when you think about it and is one of those tactics that can result in the 'red letter' days we seek with multiple hook ups.



Method groundbait mix

As I've gotten older, I do look back over the decades I have fished and this is one area I wish I had spent more time, even if it was to have packed a lure rod when I have spent so many hours of inaction that can occur in carp fishing. It really is a great way of fishing, very rewarding and extremely exciting and decidedly uncomplicated. If you've never tried it before, why not pop into your local tackle shop who will no doubt give you all the advice you need as well as some top tips for where to fish locally."

Until next time, stay safe and catch more!

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

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Crusian Carp to 2lb 4oz



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2x 30lb+ carp
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Instagram

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KENT TACKLE

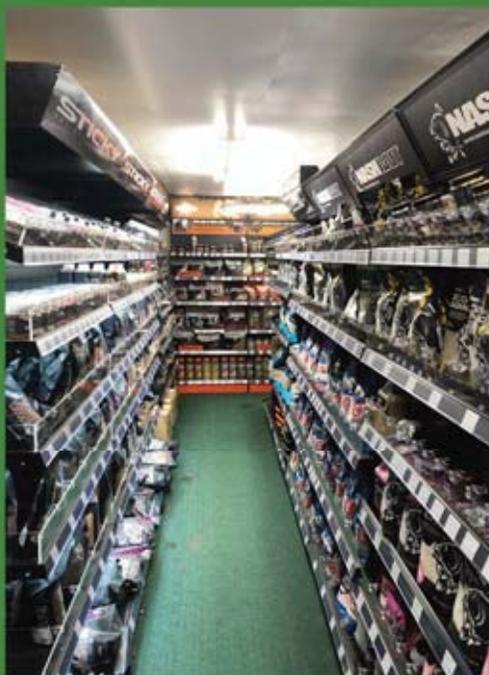


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Angling Societies

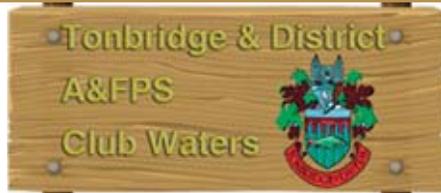
The Linton Angling Society - Membership Vacancies

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

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

e-mail: chris@lintonangling.co.uk

www.lintonangling.co.uk



14 miles of River and 7 Lakes containing:

Carp to 52lb 4oz, Tench to 12lb 8oz, Bream to 18lb+, Barbel to 15lb 2oz, Chub to 5lb+, Perch to 3lb 6oz, Pike to 31lb 6oz, Crucians to 4lb 6oz and Grass Carp to 29lb 6oz. Also large Roach and Rudd to 3lbs and large eels.

MEMBERSHIP FEE 2019/20 SEASON

Senior Membership - £60 + £10 Joining fee

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Season runs from 1st April to 31st March.

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

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

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

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



For further information please contact:

Chris Pagan 07429 655237 Steve Potter 07935 268174

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

hastingsandbexhillangling.co.uk

Chris finds the Tricklebrook perch!

Chris Kennard sent in this report after a great day's fishing at Tricklebrook Fishery:

"I had a great day's perch fishing today at Tricklebrook Fishery near Paddock Wood. In total, I caught six perch ranging from just over 1lb to 2lb. I was kept busy swapping and changing swims and baits. All the fish were nailed on Deception



Angling's size 6 TWG, apart from the monster that spat the hook after rolling on the surface! I am guessing it was an easy 3lb+!! Don't you just hate that gut wrenching feeling you get when you actually see how big the fish is and then they come off?

I will definitely be heading back soon and staying super mobile to get the big ones that are in there!! Oh and the roach, I was trying to catch livebaits and getting plagued by 1lb + roach!"



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Mixed coarse fishery with carp to mid 20s
Perfect for families and experienced anglers

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LAKES:

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

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

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

Juniors - (as for Day Tickets)

Night fishing; Only by prior booking.

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

Please call 07766 623673 to book



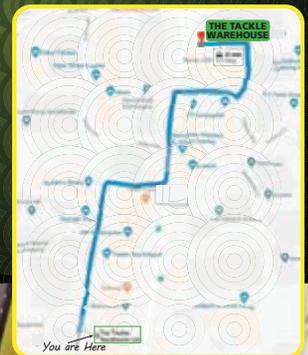
For further details contact the Secretary:
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Monk Lakes Silvers Open

BRIDGES LAKE, MARDEN, KENT 24 fished

The mild weather resulted in an excellent turnout and the fish fed well.

- 1 **Mike Sullivan** (Monk Lakes) 25-8-0 of bream on long pole and maggot over groundbait at peg 30.
- 2 **Fred Brown** (South East Match Group) had 8 bream for 22-10-0 on method feeder and pellet on peg 19.
- 3 **Jeff Davis** (Maidstone Victory) and **Tony Barthlomew** (Anchor Croydon) both 18-12-0
- 5 **Clive Samuel** (Maidstone Victory) 18-9-0
- 6 **Richard Harris** (Paddock Wood) 18-8-0

Monk Lakes Silvers Open 11/1/2020

PUMA LAKE, MARDEN, KENT 12 fished

- 1 **John Robinson** (Medway Tackle) 19-12-0
- 2 **Fred Brown** (South East Match Group) 10-9-0
- 3 **Richard Harris** (Paddock Wood) 9-15-0
- 4 **Martin Driscoll** (Monk Lakes) 7-3-0

Medway Tackle Silvers League 12/1/2020 Round 2

ALL LAKES AT FRANT, KENT. 56 fished

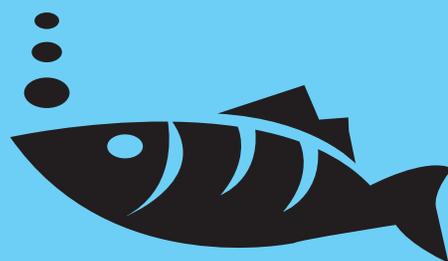
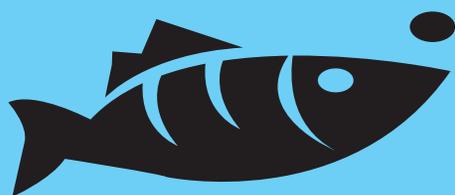
On a mild, but very windy day, these excellent lakes fished well. Paul Lamb (South East Match Group) won off peg 43 on car park lake with 19-7-0 of skimmers, perch and roach on long and short pole with red maggot. Second on snags lake was Ian Germaney (Preston Innovations Delcac) with 19-2-0 of skimmers on feeder and red maggot.

- 1 **Paul Lamb** (South East Match Group) 19-7-0
- 2 **Ian Germaney** (Preston Innovations Delcac) 19-2-0
- 3 **Jamie Grainger** (Preston Innovations Delcac) 18-8-0
- 4 **Mark Charnock** (Bordon Angling) 18-5-0
- 5 **Steve Davey** (NG Floats) 16-9-0
- 6 **Fred Brown** (South East Match Group) 13-14-0

LEAGUE:

Jamie Grainger and Nick Hyde (Maver SE) 2; Alan Lee (Bordon Angling) and Paul Lamb 3; Fred Brown 4.

Match Results



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

TANYARD FISHERIES WILL NOT BE RE-OPENING DUE TO RETIREMENT. WE THANK ALL OUR LOYAL CUSTOMERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS.
Bernard & Sharon Brown



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1 Rod £10
2 Rods £15
3 Rods £20
Day/ Night Fishing
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- Wash Up Room
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Automatic gates OPEN MON – SUN 7am
GATES CLOSE 7.15pm - Winter times will apply

Sues Tackle Cabin



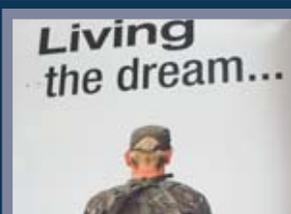
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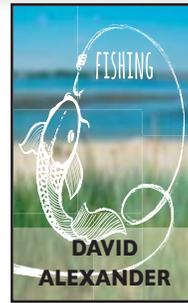
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Thank you to our Junior Informer Sponsors

Hello and welcome to the February edition of the Junior Informer!

February is the last official Winter month and thankfully a little shorter than all the others! We have been fairly lucky with the weather this Winter as it has remained mild, but, that has meant rain and lots of it! Even some of our lakes have experienced flooding, but not to the extent of the rivers. January has been somewhat drier and allowed anglers to get out on the banks and find some fish. It has been nice to receive some catch photos showing junior anglers out catching! Never be shy in sending in your catch photos or fishing stories!

Just a reminder to parents and guardians that I do require your permission to publish your sons and daughters. This is to conform with child safeguarding regulations.

I am always looking for sponsors for this popular section. If your business would like to tell everyone that you support junior angling, please get in touch and become a Junior Informer sponsor!

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

FISHING FOR SCHOOLS February Update

"Despite the wintry weather, Fishing for Schools continues in the Kent region, with courses running at a number of schools in these early months of 2020.

Warren White co-ordinates the courses in the Ashford area and is always keen to spread the word about the charity.

He writes: "I dropped into Rowhill School this morning, for a catch up with teachers and the head about how the fishing is going at the school, to display pictures of our current BTEC fishing course and to generally to promote fishing at the school."

"Rowhill is special to me as it was the first school I ever worked with, 12 years ago. The school has a great fishing model, that we'd like to see in more schools. Fishing 4 Schools funds courses for the younger pupils which are the foundation of their interest in fishing at the school."

"As the students get older they then have the opportunity to enrol on to a two-year BTEC fishery course, using Grove Farm fishery, Hadlow College as our base. The BTEC course runs once a week all through term time and has now been running for 10 years, funded by the school. They really put their money where their mouth is! This course can be a good stepping-stone for students to go on to study at Hadlow College when they leave school."

"Today at the school, I spoke to the parents of one of our students about his progress on the BTEC course. The course is really suited to this lad as he wants to go on to the college when he leaves school and even knows what animals he wants to work with at a zoo."



"It's nice to know this young man has a target in life, doing something he enjoys."

Fishing for Schools would like to thank everyone who supported our fundraising efforts at the Waitrose store in Longbridge last month.

Thanks to Warren, we were lucky enough to have been chosen as one of the Community Matters charities of the month for January in the supermarket and will receive a share of £1,000!

Alfie's Fishing poem

Alfie Clark's dad, Darren, sent us a poem written by his nine year old son who is a keen pike angler!

*Run Roach Run
Go hide, a colossal Pike
is coming
Run Roach run*

*Go in the weed
Jump out of the water
Go under a boat
Just hide or weave about
and make him dizzy*

Run Roach Run

by Alfie,
aged 9

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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



is proudly sponsored by



Pallatrax have kindly offered to support our region's Junior anglers by offering two fantastic Day Session Carp Packs to two lucky entrants picked from the Junior Catch Photos sent to the Freshwater Informer each month!

Each 'Ready, Steady, Fish' pack contains:

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

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



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DARREN & GEORGE MOORE AT BEAVER FISHERY



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LILY NOEL-DAVILA 15LBS MOUSEHOLE LAKES
NEW PB AND FIRST WINTER CARP!



PHAEDRA PAINE AT FRANT



ROAN 13 LBS RIVER BEULT



WILLIAM TAYLOR 3LBS VALEBRIDGE MILL POND

Fishing 4 Schools – February Tip of the Month from instructor Rob Goble

“February already, where does the time go? As the months and years march on and we are “getting older”, it seems that time moves faster as well. Long gone are those heady days, as a youngster when time stood still, the day would never end, but I still enjoy my fishing.

Climate change is on everybody’s lips at present, whether you believe it or not, there is change of some sort or another to our planet earth. Extremes of weather with wetter winters and hotter summers, unlike of times past with a continuity of seasonal weather, it is now changing by day or even the hour! This is obviously a worldwide problem and can it be reversed, who knows? However, we all have to play our part in doing something positive to try and help.



But back to fishing! I have featured this month on the fly line and the correct way to install it on to your fly reel. I have pictured a fly line winder which is widely available on line or from all good fly fishing stores. It is a great piece of kit for replacing or renewing fly lines on your reel.

Before I came across this winder, I used to get my dear wife to hold with two hands either side of a rolled up magazine inserted through the fly line. She would then slowly turn the magazine at the same time as I would be winding the fly reel, a bit tricky at times as it would tangle! Now it is so much easier with this gadget. Please study the pictures and if you do purchase one, approx £20, you will see how easy and self explanatory it is.



Loading the line - first you need some backing on the spool. The backing I use is micro poly, although there are many other makes. This is attached to the reel spool by a special knot called an 'Arbour knot'. Some manufacturers of fly lines will provide you with a small booklet that will explain how to perform this exercise. The new fly line box should explain how much backing you will need, as well as other information which is useful if you are just starting out from new. Once this is done, you then attach your fly line. There will be a small tab saying (reel end) and this is where you attach to your backing using a knot called an 'Albright', again this will be explained in the booklet.



One very important thing to understand is when winding the fly line off the winder and onto the reel, it has to be wound onto the reel the same way it was installed by the manufacturer. The purpose of this is to eliminate the risk of coiling or what we call 'memory'. All the knots, attachments and other information will be on the box or in the small booklet attached, if not, You Tube will have some instructional videos.

Most modern fly lines come with a welded loop for you to attach your leader tippet.

Fishing wise, hopefully our lakes and rivers are not frozen over and we can still fish. Bewl Water will still be fishing well, but closes on the 21st February. However, fisheries that are open all year include Tenterden, Springhill, Chequertree etc.

The usual flies will still work as from January's article.

Wrap up warm, keep safe, but most of all have fun, Bob G.

Top angling from Brad!

Craig Collins, who owns Channel Angling at Dover, sent in this report for Brad Woolard. Craig told me that this young man is an angler to watch out for in the future, a young Champion in the making!

“Brad Woolard, the youngest member of team Channel Angling has been out with his dad Dal in search of the rays. So far he’s managed to capture this beauty of a specimen weighing 9lb 11oz for a new PB. He caught it at Leysdown on a pulley pennel rig baited with blacks and squid wrap just as the tide was on the ebb. Well done Brad, top angling.”



Kirby-Gray sisters bagging a few!



Gareth Kirby got in touch to tell us about the Kirby-Gray sisters among the fish in an early New Year session on a local park lake.

The girls had some fishing tackle for Christmas and were eager to try it out. Looks as if they well and truly christened their new pressies!

Big Bewl perch for Noah Harrison-Lee

Proud dad Darren Lee sent in this report of son Noah, aged 10, who caught a 3 lbs 11 ozs perch on popped up legered lobworm in 40 feet of water. The big perch is a new PB for Noah and the lovely fish beat Noah's previous perch PB which was 3 lbs 2 ozs from Iden Lock.



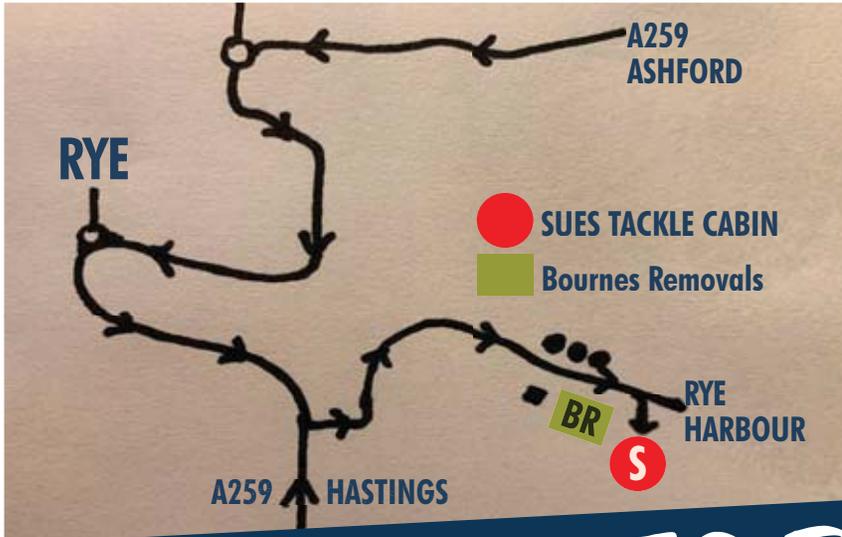
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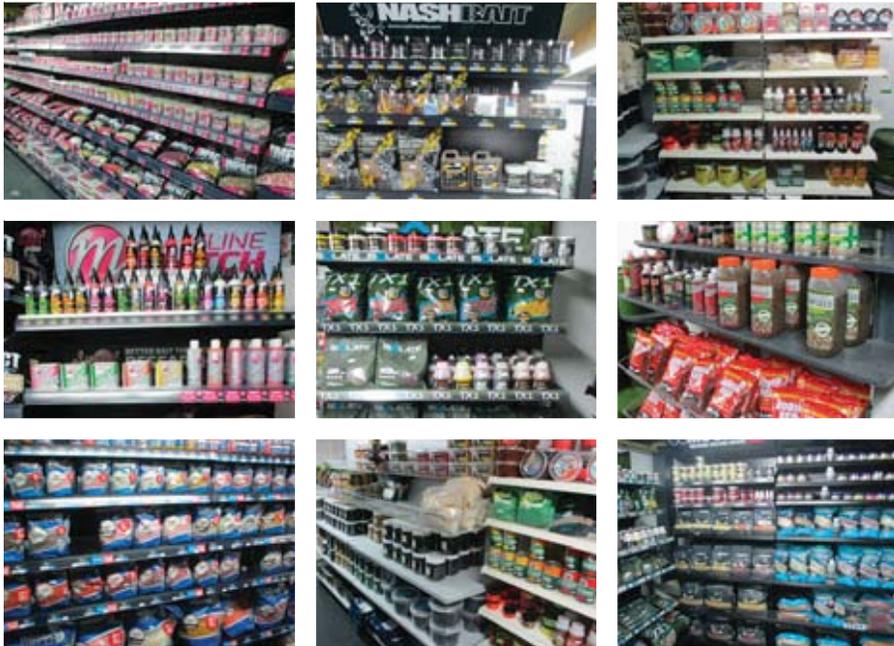
Over the past few years, dramatic changes have taken place at Sues Tackle Cabin!

The once small tackle cabin occupied a small part of The Rye Harbour Road. However, Robbie Hollands, the owner, has significantly expanded the business and is now proud to offer a store which meets the needs of all anglers; carp, coarse, match fishing and more. The massive store even offers anglers a purpose built 500sq ft Bait Room stocked to the rafters with quality bait from top manufacturers.

WELCOME TO RYE'S ANGLING

A recent addition is the new extension which houses the store's bivvy display area and a huge range of bedchairs and luggage. By crossing the road you can see how big this store has become and access the Shimano and Wychwood display areas.

The dedicated 'Bait Room'! At 500 sq ft, this section of the store is probably one of the largest bait only shops in the South East. A huge range of manufacturers are represented. Robbie is currently developing a 'house bait', which should be on the shelves very soon. There are also various particles and pellets where anglers can select the quantities and sizes etc to meet their individual requirements. The Bait Room also stocks products from Mainline Baits anywhere in the South East! Sues Tackle Cabin also stocks fresh quality maggots, worms and casters.



The tackle display areas are crammed with your favourite manufacturers and probably houses the largest Nash display in the South East.



Our sea angling customers have a huge choice from our range, especially with our rods selection from Tronix Pro and Vega. We stock a huge range of frozen baits for our sea and predator anglers!



If you are unable to visit us in person, then visit our online store.

The Spice Warehouse, Rye Harbour Road, Rye TN31 7TE

Open times: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri - 8am to 5.30pm, Thurs - 8am to 6.30pm

Sun - Closed until end of March then 10am to 4pm April to Christmas, Bank Holidays - 10am to 4pm

Plenty of FREE parking right outside the door

20TH JUNE! KEEP THE DATE FREE IN YOUR DIARY!***

developments have

Spice Warehouse in Rye and an angler, has invested in the huge new superstore. The new store has a dedicated bait room, predator and sea. 10,000 sq ft dedicated bait room for anglers!



THE SUPERSTORE!

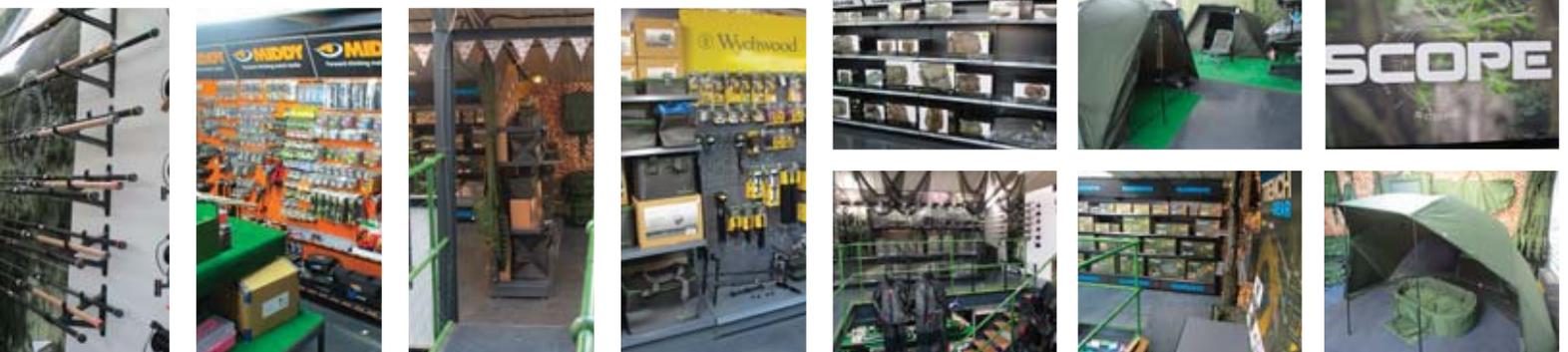
Amazing first floor mezzanine area which is the 'skywalk', you can appreciate just

the best tackle rooms in the region and the top bait room is shortly to be a 'Pick 'n' Mix' area for anglers. The store probably stocks the largest range of tackle (to order).

Anglers can buy their favourite items from the top tackle display in the region!



Let's take a look round the superstore:



Shop at www.suestacklecabin.co.uk

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

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

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

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

To be in with a chance to win this fantastic set of GRIPZ hooks, all you have to do is send us your catch photo via our Facebook message page or email barnic@btinternet.com 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

The winner of the
PALLATRAX GRIPZ
Hooks Set for JANUARY is...
Andy Humphreys
well done!



MANDY ANN TAYLOR-NICHOLS
FIRST FISH OF 2020



MARCUS TAYLOR 42 LBS ELPHICKS



DEAN CREASEY MEMBERS WATER



JACK BURDON 29LBS GREENACRES



JACK WOOD 16 LBS PRIVATE LAKE



JASON LUDLOW 27LBS STONES FISHERY



KEITH BAKER 20 LBS MIDDLE LAKE WYLANDS



LUKE WRATTEN MULKERRINS 30 LBS
ORCHARD PLACE LAKE 4



ANDY EASEY 19LBS ROYAL MILITARY CANAL



NIGEL CAGE 18LBS LADDINGFORD



PERRY BARCLAY STRAWBERRY FIELDS



PETE ELLIS 30 LBS BEAVER FARM



**PETER BARNETT
44LBS MORE HOUSE FARM**



ROB LEDSHAM - IDEN WOOD



**ROB LEDSHAM SNR
15LBS NEW PB RIVER PIKE**



**THOMAS LOCHRANE
STRAWBERRY FIELDS**



STEVE AND CHARLIE MACK

New PB for Alan Dawber at Elphicks

Natalie Dawber sent in this catch report for hubby Alan after he had a successful session at Elphicks: "My husband came home a very happy man after a 24hr session at Elphicks on the north lake, new PB for him. Lovely mirror carp at 35.10lb caught in the shallower water. Would love him to get a shout out in the next edition of the magazine." Many thanks Natalie



Great pike for long time angling buddies!

Iain Raydon sent in this report from him and Jon Ely. They had a session at Barden Lake with Jon catching a fish of 15lbs 6ozs on popped up dead sprat and Iain having a 15lbs 12ozs fish on twitched dead roach.



*Iain Raydon
15lb 12oz*



*Jon Ely
15lb 6oz*

Iain added: "Really enjoy the magazine- lots of good info. We discussed the piece on Keston Ponds and agreed it was fantastic and brought back many fond memories of surface fishing for small rudd with crust. This prompted the realisation that we have been fishing buddies for 40 years!"

Jack bags some Winter beauties!



Jack Holden has been in touch to tell us about his success recently. Fishing at Darenth, Jack has bagged some lovely fish!



"I have been out three times recently, Xmas eve, Xmas day and New Year's Day and I have some lovely fish out with the biggest at 27lbs 8ozs!"



River Informer

Welcome to February's River Informer!

After the Autumn and early Winter's relentless rain making our rivers virtually unfishable, we have had some drier periods during January allowing the rivers to fine down and enable some fishing to take place. However, the surrounding land is still very much water logged so it will still be some time before the rivers clear and levels drop. At the time of writing, Storm Brendan is about to batter the country and dump further heavy rain across the region! As you would have no doubt heard and read, our Countryman Jim Smith sadly passed away just after Christmas. His 'A Countryman's View' articles had been extremely popular with readers and Jim was quite rightly proud of them himself! I am pleased that we managed to share some of Jim's memories and glimpses in to Sussex countryside life. Rest well now my friend!

YOUR CATCH REPORTS

First wild brownie for Jack!

Jack Wood sent in this report of his first wild brown trout:

"I spent 30 minutes one evening fishing a little local stream with a small little curly tail grub lure hoping for a perch or two, but ended up with this lovely little wild brown trout.



It's the first one I've ever caught and hopefully not the last! Great little fighter in fast flowing water. I had a 2lb rainbow a few years back but that's my first wild brownie. The fish was rested in the margin for 5 mins and safely released."

Great pike for Andy!

Sam Cox, who writes Sam's Fishing Journal in the magazine, sent in this report of a session with his fishing buddy Andy Easey:

"Hi Barry, Andy said he is proud of this fish of 19 lbs 14 ozs from the Royal Military Canal. It's a new PB for him. We also had several jacks and dropped a few takes. We only use barbless circle hooks for all our pike fishing. We do lose less fish and they do less damage."



A good day for Nick!

Shane Pope sent in this report after a session with his fishing buddy Nick near Rye:

"My mate Nick and I had a session again today on our local canal. I found the fish and put him in the right spot again. The scores on the doors were: Nick had 4 and lost 2. Me had 0 and lost 0! All jacks to about 6lb but great sport and all on small deadbaits Happy days!"



Mandy Ann Taylor-Nichols first trout ever!

Bankside on the Sussex Ouse with Colin Etherington

"I cannot tell you all how pleased and excited I am to be able to write a column for the Freshwater Informer. I've been an angler literally all of my life and certainly as far back as I can remember. My late father taught me to fish from a young age and he taught me well. Some anglers reading this will possibly know of me from my younger days tackling commercial fisheries in the 80's and 90's. However, I'm certainly more inclined of recent years to be found on the banks of a river, it's the solitude and the unknown factor of what you are going to catch that draws me time and time again to the wilderness of the river banks.



Weir Pool from the road, a venue many have fallen in love with!

When I made the decision to concentrate my efforts on river angling, it was a difficult decision to say the least. I hadn't fished a river for literally years and my tackle and tactics were pretty rusty to say the least. Fortunately, I could use a lot of my current tackle and I found by scaling down my carp gear, I was nearly there. I had to decide on a venue and that was quite a straightforward decision as I only live 15 minutes from the Sussex Ouse. It's only 28.5 miles long, but it certainly packs a punch when you consider the quality of the specimen fish that are on offer. Initially, I opted to target the barbel as I already had a Haywards Heath and District Angling Society (HHDAS) ticket. They control a vast section of the Sussex Ouse and this includes the weir pools at East Mascalls Lane and the Sloop.

It did take a while for me to start unlocking the secrets of the river and I wouldn't say that my first season was anything other than full of heartache and frustration, to say the least. I'd caught some lovely chub and some cracking bream, but the barbel evaded me for a considerable length of time. I was getting frustrated and at times, I considered the river cruel to put it mildly!

Then one day my fortunes turned, all I had learned seemed to fall into place and my rod slammed over in a fashion that I'd never dreamt of. It was late February, time was running out with little over two weeks of the season remaining and I only had



Waiting for the tip to slam over!



A contrasting view of the pool in Summer - the wildlife is amazing!

one opportunity left to bank a barbel. I planned to fish the Saturday morning from 5am through until lunchtime. When my alarm went off at 4.30am, I had no option but to drag myself out of bed. I got dressed by torch light and headed downstairs to put the kettle on. I opened the front door to be greeted by rain and 'wow' didn't it look miserable in the darkness! I bottled it and went back upstairs got undressed and climbed back into bed. I couldn't sleep and thought about all the fruitless hours I'd spent down at the river.

Suddenly, I made a decision to not give up and I got dressed again and made my flask and headed off to the Ouse. I arrived just before dawn and the rain had become more like drizzle. I couldn't believe that I'd forgotten my umbrella! I tackled up using the head lights of my car before creeping down to the pool and lowering my 3 lob worms by the side of the weir pools apron just outside of the white water. It seemed very cold, but I think that was more to do with the rain and being slightly damp. I literally only had about 12 foot of line from my rod tip to my baited hook. With rain dripping in front of my eyes as it ran off my hood, I could just make out the outline of my rod tip against the skyline. I pondered in my head as to whether I was barking mad. It did cross my mind to wind in and head home! It was approaching 6am when suddenly my rod burst into life and the tip slammed over lifting the butt clear off the deck. I literally grabbed my rod and felt the power of a big fish suddenly turn on a six pence and head downstream. The fight from this fish was epic and I was literally shaking as the fish finally glided into my net. I can remember clearly jumping with joy and my voice echoed around the pool with a mighty 'Get in there Col'. As the fish rested in my 50" net, I called Darren Larouche my fishing buddy to get up and come take the pictures and to independently weigh the fish.

So, that's the story of my first barbel from the Sussex Ouse weighing an astounding 12lb 6oz and an introduction to myself.



My first barbel from the Sussex Ouse

Next month, I'm looking forward to detailing a session at the Sloop which is the weir pool below East Mascalls and once again it holds some beautiful and big barbel that will certainly test your tackle to its limits."

Tight lines everyone till next month.

Colin Etherington

Jim Smith – 31/07/1944 to



Obituary by Stewart Allum

"It is with great regret that I must inform you of the death, following a brief spell of illness, of the legendary river bailiff Jim Smith of Isfield, Sussex, who was the Ouse Angling Preservation Society's Head Bailiff for 55 years. Jim was one of a vanishing breed of river keepers, a man who devoted his entire life to the wellbeing of his beloved Sussex Ouse and its' neighbouring river Adur.

Jim left school at 14 to begin work as a garden boy on Lord Rupert Nevill's estate but when the nursery there closed, he transferred to the East Sussex River Board where amongst other things he worked on the early Lewes Flood defences. A keen angler since the age of ten, Jim was approached by the OAPS in the 1960's to take on the role of Head Bailiff. This was a full-time post and in addition to managing the coarse and sea trout fishing on the river Ouse, Jim also supervised the Society's stocked trout fishery at nearby Barcombe Reservoir, which was then owned by the Southern Water Authority.

During Jim's lengthy association with the river he was closely involved in a pioneering hatchery programme initiated by the East Sussex River Board, raising sea trout smolts for stocking into the Ouse, Adur and Arun river systems. Jim supervised the feeding of the fry at the hatchery and

release of smolts into these rivers, to make up for fish losses caused by two dreadful disease outbreaks in the 1960's and loss of spawning habitat caused by indiscriminate dredging. The project continued for twenty years until it fell victim to the swingeing cuts which preceded water industry privatisation. Interestingly, the smolts were freeze-branded with an inverted 'T' which proved preferable to the physical tags commonly in use then, which only hampered the fishes' movements; a forerunner perhaps to the dye-marking of stocked fish commonly used by today's fisheries agencies.

The closure of the Barcombe Reservoir fishery in 1992, after it was taken over by South-East Water, deprived Jim of a substantial portion of his income. Worse was to follow when in 1997, the Preservation Society found it could no longer afford the services of a full-time bailiff. It says much for Jim's determination and his devotion to the river that he continued to fulfil the role of Head Bailiff for the Society on a largely voluntary basis, right up until his death.

A legend throughout the Sussex landscape, of which he was an integral part, Jim was a keen writer too, whose love of the countryside was clearly evoked through his regular features in the Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust's newsletter and more recently the Freshwater Informer, to which he submitted a monthly column throughout the past year, despite his declining health. In 2015, Jim featured in a three-part series for Meridian News entitled 'Tales of the River Man'. He was also featured in several books and magazines during his later years, notably in a lengthy interview for the Guardian newspaper in 2015, where he highlighted the environmental problems facing the Ouse and rivers throughout the country in general.

As a Trustee of the Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust and the Angling Society's Head Bailiff, Jim devoted himself to the rivers he'd cherished throughout his life, whether that be policing the fishery, supervising the work of Rivers' Trust volunteers or attending various public meetings. Not long ago, he played a leading role in defeating plans to create a huge landfill site adjacent to a vitally important tributary of the Ouse. Eventually though, Jim's health began to decline and the loss of a toe limited his mobility, though he still enjoyed getting out on the bank whenever he could, talking to the anglers and generally keeping an eye on things.

Jim passed away in Eastbourne Hospital on 27th. December 2019. The river Ouse has lost its dearest and best friend."



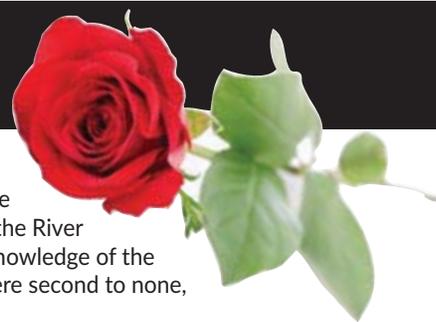
A Tribute to Jim Smith by Mark Orchin

"I fondly remember the many chats I had with Jim along the river bank on the Sussex Ouse going back over 30 years, his figure instantly recognisable slowly making his way down the bank towards us anglers to check our licence, give advice and have a good old chin wag about anything to do with the river and its inhabitants. Jim (as Field Officer and honorary Bailiff) wrote regularly in the Ouse and Arun River Trust (OART) quarterly magazine by way of his countryside diary, where it was clear that his countryside knowledge was not only superior, but borne from a lifelong love of the river and its surroundings. It was no surprise on several occasions to see Jim interviewed about the river on TV and he would have given Jack Hargreaves and Oliver Kite a run for their money! As a committee member of our local Historical Society, I invited Jim over to give a talk one evening a few years back and he kept a sizeable audience enthralled with his knowledge of the river, its history and the wildlife it contains going back 60 – 70 years, in fact, after 2 hours, we had a job to get him to close the talk!

I think it is Jim's legacy that all of us who visit the countryside should try to learn more about the wildlife and surroundings, not just the fish, but the birds, plants, trees and insects and how our current climate crisis is affecting nature, and to pass it on to future generations. Jim was passionate about keeping everything as it should be and wrote frequently about the litter he and colleagues picked up at Barcombe Mills after hot summer weekends, often filling dozens of bin liners – a thankless task so often repeated. I once saw Jim in the Anglers Rest at Barcombe (now sadly closed) singing old folk songs with pals with a pint of Harveys after a day on the river, a treasure of knowledge has now left us. RIP Jim Smith."

Mark Orchin

Secretary / Organiser – Cinder Hill Fly Fishing



Some of the many condolences received from Freshwater Informer readers:

Wayne Bowden: RIP Sir.

Mark Elliott: Very sad news. Jim was an amazingly generous and knowledgeable man. He was very happy to take me out with him on multiple occasions on his beat on the River Ouse when I was an eager young teenager in the early 80's. I've been working to conserve and restore rivers ever since.

Anthony Brooks: Sad news, I used to talk to Jim when I was a member of the Ouse Preservation society many years ago. RIP you will be missed.

Gary Gray: I never knew him, but it is always sad news to lose a person who knew so many people and was so well known and loved.

Daniel Hatherley-Hurford: Jim was an absolute gentleman to me when I first arrived in Sussex as a newly appointed Fisheries Officer for the River Ouse Catchment at the ripe old age of 23 years old in 1998 following in the foot steps of both Jim and Mick Bradford. Jim was quick to gain my trust and he was invaluable to me in learning both the catchment and with introduction to members of both angling and riparian community. Jim was the last of a generation of selfless and caring River Bailiffs and he will be sadly missed. I will always cherish my memories of him. In honour of Jim, the fisheries management students I now teach at Plumpton have named our fish farm teaching class room as the Jim 'The Fish' Memorial Room. RIP good friend.

Andrew Brandon: RIP.

David Baker: Great character, remember walking down the river with him after catching a big pike. RIP Jim.

Steve Hunter: R.I.P Jim. You may be gone, but you will never be forgotten!

Tony Wingrove: RIP Jim. I will have a beer for you mate! A legend gone, but will never be forgotten. I remember when you used to check my OAPS ticket, you always asked! 'Got a beer boy?' So many memories in the Anglers Rest and Plashet shoot. If you bump into my pop (Dougie) say hi and have a whisky on me. This is very sad news! One of the last true country gents, he will be missed by all that knew him.

James Carter: Absolutely top man, the knowledge he had of the river was remarkable. I read this sad news after getting my tackle ready for tomorrow. Jim, I'll catch one for you tomorrow.. R.I.P

Michael Wright: I have known Jim for a long time. We used to have a few beers together after fishing Barcombe reservoir. Great Times. Rip Jim.

Michele Aylward: I didn't know this gentleman or very much about him. What I can see is that he was respected and thought a lot of by many, many people.



Mark Orchin: I will miss the many chats we had along the River Ouse over the years, his knowledge of the countryside and nature were second to none, a true countryman.

Matthew Hildrew: Good ole Jim. He used to tell me all the best spots to go to when I was a kid. Goodbye Jim, you shall be greatly missed!

Mandy Parks: That mould is now well and truly broken. I have known him over many years...utter legend who received complete respect from many...the river has lost a true friend.....

Steve Barton: As a young lad, I had the honour and pleasure of meeting this legendary gent on many occasions whilst fishing the Ouse with another legend, now they will have plenty of time to fish the heavenly lakes together, R.I.P. Jim Smith.

Jacqueline Atherden: So sad. Jim was a real gentleman. He loved the countryside. Another real character gone from our village but will never be forgotten. I will really miss our chats about the village from years gone by. Bless him. xx

Stephen Moulder: I have no idea who this gentleman is, but, from one angler to another, RIP mate, tight lines.

Mark Brown: RIP Jim the fish. We will miss you and your stories. Sussex has never had a better gentlemen in the country.

Alan Camo Turner: So sorry to hear this, R.I.P Gentleman Jim.

Mark Barnard: A sad day and the end of an era. Rest in Peace Jim, you will be missed.

Steve Mahkonen: Mr.Ouse has gone, now there is no one to speak up on behalf of the river.

Alison Kaatze: A true Gentleman - RIP Jim the Fish.

Barry Taylor: RIP Jim.. sleep and fish well, sir.

Brian Sison: RIP Jim. It was a pleasure knowing you. We used to chat when I drove the buses and we would pick you up and take you to Lewes.

Richard Burchett: Very sad news, an Isfield legend.

Dave Flint: The Sussex Ouse will be a poorer place without him. RIP Jim.

Peter Wise: RIP Jim, an absolute legend and great friend of the river.

Geoff Tapp: God bless you Jim.

Gill Wilson: So sad to hear this news, such a lovely character. He will be sadly missed by many. R.I.P Jim.

Garry Willis: Sad news. Rest in peace buddy.

Shaun Thorpe: Taught me how to use a fly rod properly. RIP Jim

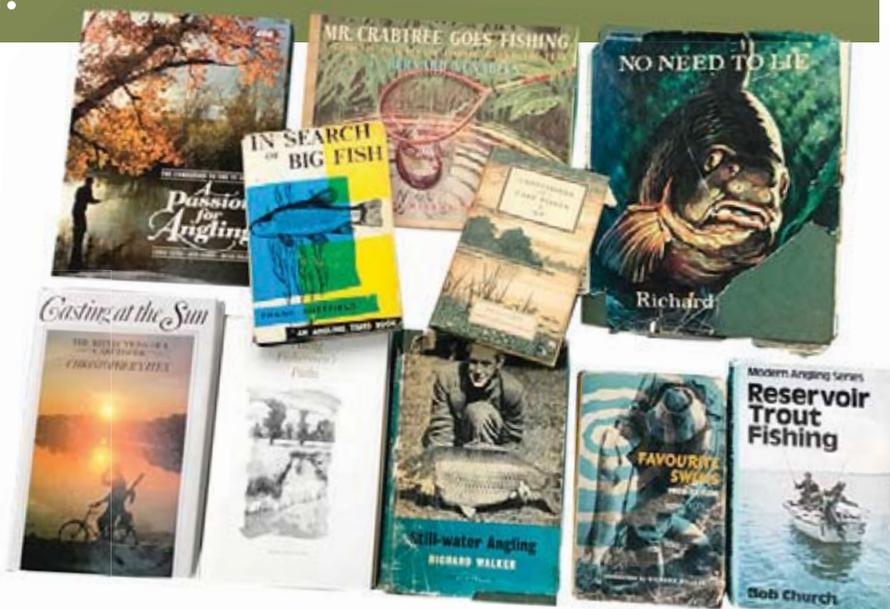
Ivan Peck: Bless him, spent a lot of time at Barcombe reservoir trout fishing. He always knew where to find the fish and taught me a lot about fly fishing. God bless Jim xx

THE GOLDEN YEARS OF COARSE FISHING by Bob Rolph

The books of the Golden Era!

My most inspirational fishing books of the past 60 years.

1. Way out front in front is **Mr Crabtree goes Fishing** by Bernard Venables 1st edition 1949. Two million copies and dozens of editions of this paperback book that set thousands of kids off on the road to fishing bliss!
2. **Confessions of a Carp Fisher** by BB (Denys Watkins Pitchford). A small book with scraperboard line drawings. The first edition sells for a fortune! Carp fishing mystique and history in the 1940s at Wood Pool by the Father of old carp fishing.
3. **In search of Big Fish** by Frank Guttfield. Written in 1963, it is another small book that set the tone for modern specimen hunters to follow. Mainly about his fishing year of 1962 fishing for tench and chub in Bedfordshire.
4. **Favourite Swims** by Fred J. Taylor in 1961. Yet another small book by this famous countryman and angler about his fishing pitches in Bucks and Beds during the 50s and 60s when fishing for tench, chub, barbel, roach and bream.
5. **No Need to Lie** by Dick Walker. The master's accounts of big fish from his favourite waters. A real collector's item, if in mint condition. A reprint was published a few years ago.
6. **Stillwater Angling** by Richard Walker. The original 'must have' book from the 1950s, published in six editions. It tells the story of his record carp and the development of early carp fishing in the 1960s.
7. **Upon Anglers Paths** by Mike Winter 2010. The late Mike Winter was one of the original specimen hunters and carp fishermen from Devon. This is a glorious account of his fishing life all over the country and his friendship with Frank Guttfield.
8. **Casting at the Sun** by Chris Yates. The master carp angler and captor of the record carp of 51 lb 8 ozs on June 16th 1980 from Redmire, reflects on his life and tells of wondrous catches from lakes around the Home Counties. A work of genius!
9. **A passion for Angling / Catching the Impossible** by Chris Yates, Bob James and Martin Bowler. The book of the films! The two greatest TV series ever, absolute magic if you are a specimen fish angler with interest in the countryside, real atmosphere and super expert fishermen, narrated by Bernard Cribbins, a great angler himself!
10. **Reservoir Trout Fishing** by Bob Church. Another little book by the late, great Bob Church MBE, written at the time of the Reservoir Trout fishing revolution in 1977 when you had to get to the waterside the night before to gain a swim!
11. **The Deepening Pool** by Chris Yates. Another great book by this master angler, historian and carp fishing legend. He

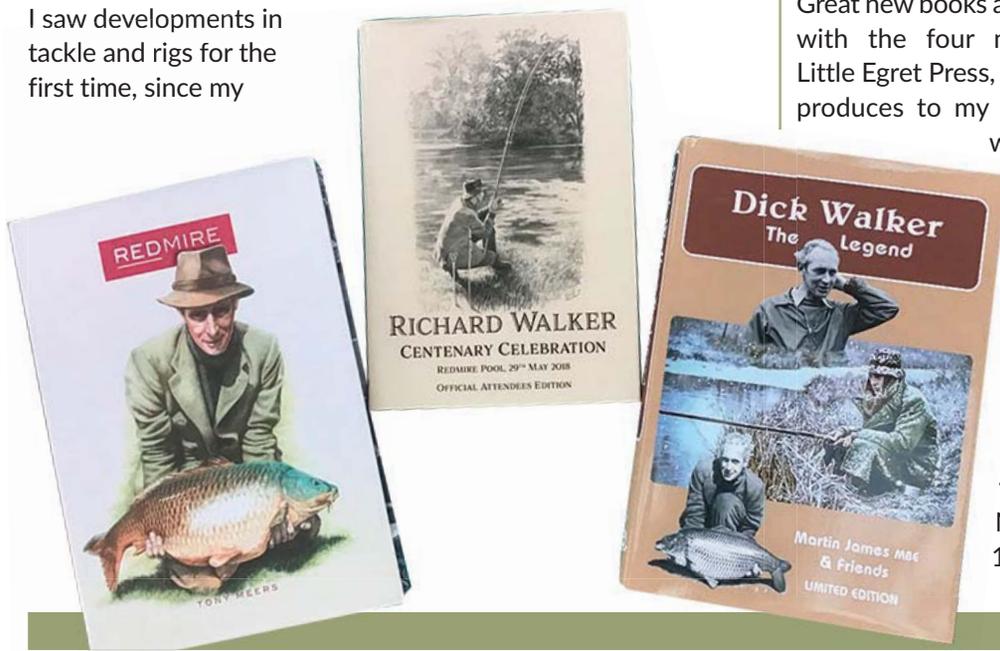


fishes like it used to be, with quality old tackle and arrives by bike! Still the most respected carp angler who ever lived and he's still going strong at 71!

12. **The History of Carp Fishing (Revisited)** by Kevin Clifford. A huge major work by the greatest of all the carp fishing historians. Everything you ever wanted to know about the development of carp fishing in this country and in Europe from a major former carp fishing giant.
13. **60 Years a Fisherman** by the late John Wilson MBE. Coarse, Sea and Game, he did it all and popularised it all on television in his wonderful series for Anglia TV. His huge fish catches were mind boggling, and he describes it all in this wonderful book of stories and photos. Fishing all over the world, starting in his beloved native Norfolk right up to his untimely death in Thailand last year.
14. **Quest for Carp** by Jack Hilton. For 20 years, Jack was the greatest angler in the country, with his massive carp, tench, barbel, roach and pike catches between 1957 and 1977, when he just gave it all up to become a Jehovah's Witness. The fishing world was stunned, but he left a legacy that can never be forgotten. When he died in 1997, his funeral was attended by every great name in fishing and his son Keith carries on the name with his great fishing exploits.
15. **Angling Encounters**, edited and compiled by Tony Meers. A series of essays by well known anglers about their greatest catches. Tony produces some of the best books about these days and his books, often with Bob Buteux, always contain great photos and paintings of fishing scenes and catches.
16. **Fishing as we Find It. / Red Letter Days**. Another two great books of angling essays by famous anglers of the time. One edited by Pete Rogers and one by Peter Wheat.
17. **Royalty Days** by Bob Buteux. Bob is still going strong at 90 and is the only surviving member of the famous Herts /Chiltern Specimen Group of the 50s & 60s when barbel fishing on the Avon at Christchurch was the "in" place to go! Bob took to writing late in life and has produced six great nostalgic volumes on his varied angling life, full of photos, memories and anecdotes. Great reads, I knew the swims!

18. **The King Carp Waters** by Chris Ball. Famous historian and carp fishing expert, Chris tells the story of the 'Lenev Strain' of carp, developed at Haslemere in 1934 by fish farmer Donald Lenev and the waters in which they were stocked. Look out for Chris's other two books on Historical Carp Waters.
19. **The Angling Artists** by Tony Meers. This book is a must if you like fish paintings and the like. A beautifully produced book with good reproductions of famous works by Bernard Venables, David Carl Forbes, John Searle, Keith Linsall and many others. A real work of art!
20. **Richard Walker, A Biography** by Dr Barrie Rickards. A must read book on Britain's greatest angler who died in 1984. His Centenary was last year and all anglers owe him a debt of gratitude for the great legacy he left behind. Everything you want to know about the great man is in this book and I recommend every angler reads it!
21. **The Biggest Fish of All** by the Perchfishers. No it's not about carp, but the humble perch, which is having a revival these days, with huge fish coming out all over the country after years of perch disease. Great photographs and articles by expert perch fishermen and another great book by Stephen Harper Press.
22. **Drop me a Line** by Richard Walker and Maurice Ingham. One of the classics, being a series of letters written between these two master carp fishermen during the 1950s, when they were trying to develop and promote carp fishing tackle and tactics. A real collector's item, hard to find and very expensive when you do locate a copy!
23. **Catch a Big Fish** by David Carl Forbes. Another very hard to find volume, full of interesting articles by famous anglers of the time and published just before his untimely death in 1972.
24. **Redmire Pool** by Kevin Clifford and Len Arbury. The classic work on this famous carp lake, soon I believe to be updated and reprinted.
25. **The Letters** by the Carpcatchers Club Members. Compiled and edited by Pete Rogers. A huge volume of the original letters sent between the twelve members of the original famous club in the 1950s, very expensive if you can get it at £60, originally published by the Medlar Press.

Most modern books today on carp fishing talk a different language to that which I grew up with. At the Carp Society's Winter Show at Sandown Park in November, I saw developments in tackle and rigs for the first time, since my



return to the fold three years ago. I knew little about spod bombs, buzz bars, cross pods and bait grinders, not to mention the revolution in "lead" weights and as for bait boats, well I've been on similar size cruise ships!!! I think I'll stick to freelined worms and mussels! I did, however, like the stainless steel, free standing bite alarm rod rest bars, with their 3/8 threads, just what's needed for the hard gravel banks of Keston Ponds!

Great books were published sixty years ago, at the time I was starting out fishing. It was largely these that inspired me all those years ago. Dick Walker was in his prime then, with his books Stillwater Angling, Drop me a Line, Walkers Pitch and No Need to Lie. We teenagers read these avidly, like bibles, gleaning as much information from them as we could, then going out and trying to emulate our great idols on the riverbank! It rarely worked like that of course, either the fish were smaller, fewer, or didn't bite at all!

Jim Gibbinson started his great work "Carp" with the green cover at the time. We fished together and Bob Church was learning his reservoir trout fishing techniques with myself and others at Grafham, Rutland and the like in the 1970s. An exciting time to be a young aspiring angler with such great teachers at our helm.

Many great new books are being produced and published in recent years as well. There are four main publishers of quality hardback angling books today; Harper Fine Angling, Little Egret Press, Medlar Press and River Reads. Stephen Harper, a great specimen hunter from Norfolk, produces some of the greatest books, three of which have been edited and compiled by Tony Meers of Erith, Kent. "Redmire" is his latest work, telling the history of this famous carp lake in Herefordshire, with 40 contributors telling their stories of success and failure, in my case!

Wayne Cryer of the Little Egret Press produced a classic on Richard Walker last year, and The Medlar Press has a very interesting book on the history of the National Angling Match Fishing Championships over the past 100 years.

New books to look out for in 2020 are: Chris Ball's "Historical Carp Waters II" and "A prospect of Angling" by Peter Rogers, being a tribute to the writings and paintings of Bernard Venables, both are to be published by the Little Egret Press. I hear rumours of a book on Frank Guttfeld and a book on Fred J. Taylor, but as yet these are just ideas so I believe! . Also a book by veteran Nottingham big fish angler and writer, Archie Braddock, on his 70 years on the river bank! Ian Howcroft is compiling a book on Fred J. Taylor and Pete Garvan is doing a big chub book. My book "Angling in the Blood" is still a distant prospect, but one day perhaps, my 100,000 words of ramblings will see the light of day, if a publisher would take the risk!

Great new books are still being produced and published each year, with the four main publishers being: The Harper Press, Little Egret Press, Medlar Press and River Reads. Stephen Harper produces to my mind some of the greatest books, three of which have been written and edited by

Tony Meers from Erith Kent. "Redmire" is the latest, telling of the history of this most famous of big carp waters set in the rolling hills of Herefordshire, with 40 most readable chapters by well known anglers that have fished there. It is available at £35 from Little Egret Press. Wayne Crier has also produced a classic on Richard Walker the Legend, last year and the Medlar Press have a very interesting book on the history of the National Angling Championships over the past 110 years.

Medway Man

Bob Morris

Having done little fishing during December, for reasons of illness, as explained last month, I am now really enjoying being back out on the bank side on a regular basis amongst all of the seasonal wildlife and also the unseasonal (as yet) warm weather. I am not sure that this improves your chances with the pike, but just about everything else on the piscatorial front seems to appreciate it.



Recent mid double



No more bankside surgery

Most of my efforts of late have been on the pike trail and although I have not managed any monsters so far, about a dozen doubles have graced my net recently - all again taken on my single barbless hook/hair rigged deadbait approach. I have only lost one fish so far (unfortunately a bigger one) when the hook pulled at the net. As usual, this pike was hooked in the corner of the mouth (scissors) and unfortunately I was experimenting with a fine wire hook, which I believe bent open slightly - allowing the pike to shake it out !! Whilst rather irritating, this was an experiment and sometimes you do have to learn the hard way. I almost had it in the net! On the plus side, I have yet to need to open a pike's mouth or even use forceps/pliers to remove hooks. Most of the action this Winter has been on herring and mackerel sections of no more than six inches long with a hair rig of about two inches and a size four carp hook. As a result of fishing this way, I have not been using the instant strike approach, which is advisable when a double treble hook rig is being used - to avoid deep hooking. Instead, I have waited for approx twenty five seconds from the commencement of the take before winding down and pulling into the fish. This tactic has proved ninety five percent effective this season, although I expect that I will end up missing a few. The convenience of not having to engage in grisly bank side surgery to unhook pike has totally sold me on this method and I have not used trebles now for a couple of years or more. Other advantages are, of course, a complete lack of damage to the pike - and possibly to yourself. I believe that it is even worth the risk of losing or missing a fish or two! On the subject of static deadbaits and bite indication in particular, I have come to the conclusions over many years that being able to instantly detect a pike picking up your bait is the most important aspect of this type of fishing - to avoid a deeply hooked fish. A running lead weight of reasonable size greatly assists here, especially when fishing at greater range. This set-up means that a pick up from a pike will show as a positive forward movement of the indicator whichever way it moves off. If any other sort of terminal arrangement is used, involving a fixed lead of any type (a paternoster for instance) then it is vital that an indicator of sufficient weight is used to instantly show a slack line (drop back) take. It might seem obvious,

but it is surprising how many pike anglers, particularly beginners, seem to be unaware of this simple fact. It does not help that many so-called 'drop off' indicators don't actually allow the line to move freely and therefore are really no more than glorified line clips!

I prefer a free hanging indicator, as it is much more efficient at detecting movement on the line when a slack liner occurs. I also like to use an audible indicator where possible and again this needs to be one capable of registering a drop back. I think that this is very important, as it is not always possible to keep your eye on a pair of bobbins (or several floats) for a whole session, especially if, like me, you are prone to being distracted by the local wildlife. It also goes without saying that indicators/floats should be as visible as possible and it is surprising just how much difference a change in light conditions can make to the visibility of a float at fifty yard or more. Having analysed my pike fishing with the static deadbait approach over many years, I have come to the conclusion that I have been alerted to the start of a take more often by the sound of a buzzer than by movement on my floats or indicators - so it seems that a sensitive system is really vital.



Plenty of distractions - Little Egret



Bob prefers free hanging indicators

At the time of writing, we seem to have escaped any form of freeze and the rivers have been extremely full and coloured, even flooded for much of the time. I have not done much on the Medway or other rivers this winter, partly for reasons explained earlier, but I am now hopeful of putting in a bit of time before the end of the season and have a few spots in mind for a bit of perch fishing, along with the old favourites - chub and barbel. I have not pike fished the river at all this winter as yet, but If the water clears a bit I might even try drowning a deadbait or two - in conjunction with the appropriate set-ups and indication systems - of course!"



It's almost impossible to watch 3 floats at fifty yards



Medway flood

Beast Fishes and Set-ups

Bob Morris

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with Full Duplon Handles,
Fuji Reel Fittings
& Kigan Rings
Only £195 each or £495 for 3**

All types of rods, built, renovated or repaired!

Trout Informer



Chalk Springs Arundel, West Sussex

"The run up to Christmas was very busy at Chalk Springs with our water as clear as crystal and the fish fighting fit. The average fish taken were 3s and 4s with some at 4.5 lb but the biggest caught was by Paddy Hill at 8lb 9oz. After Christmas, it went into overdrive with lots of anglers turning up full of turkey and Christmas pud and nearly all bagging up in a couple of hours, with lots of nice comments telling us how much it has improved, which we are very thankful and grateful to hear. So good stuff

for the New Year, thanks guys, really makes all the difference! All the normal flies doing the business such as damsels, heavy weighted stalking bugs, buzzers and even fish taking off the top."

Ally and Nick.



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Lure Fishing

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

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

Fly Fishing

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

Trout

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

Carp & Pike

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



For details contact Andy Lush on 01892 528677

Tenterden Trout Waters Tenterden, Kent

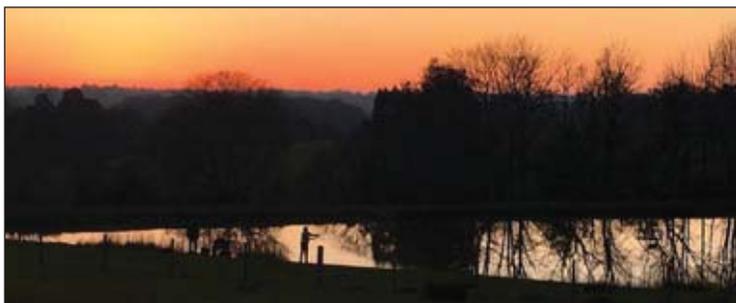


"Winter fishing is good at Tenterden with our anglers reaping the rewards of our stocking in December with many fish being caught between 3lbs-8lbs. We will have re-stocked again by the time you are reading this article and there will be plenty of fish for you to stalk. We pride ourselves in stocking healthy, hard fighting trout of varying weights.

Popular patterns in January have been Montana, Cats Whisker & Hoppers and all three lakes are fishing well. Intermediate line is working best. Our water levels are high which is helpful. As you can see from the photos, Clive Pettifer, one of our regular anglers, caught a quality rainbow weighing 6lbs 9oz. Elliot & Malcolm (Father & Son) had a fantastic morning fishing together and went home with smiles on their faces as you can see! Montana was the killer fly for all three of them.

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

We have just re-launched our website for the start of 2020 and we hope you enjoy using the new site - we have worked hard to make it user friendly. For an up-to-date Fishing Report just Click on this Heading on our Home page. www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk We have an Aerial Tour on our Home Page so you can view our picturesque Wealden setting. Please follow us on Instagram and visit our Gallery.



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

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

The Farm/Fishery is now available as a Wedding Venue whilst the fishery is closed in the Summer and we are taking bookings for 2020/21/22. Click on 'Wedding Venue' for further info on our website. We look forward to welcoming you to our friendly Fishery for some relaxing downtime this year in beautiful surroundings." Tight Lines - **Gaynor, Richard & Audrey**

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teisesecretary@gmail.com

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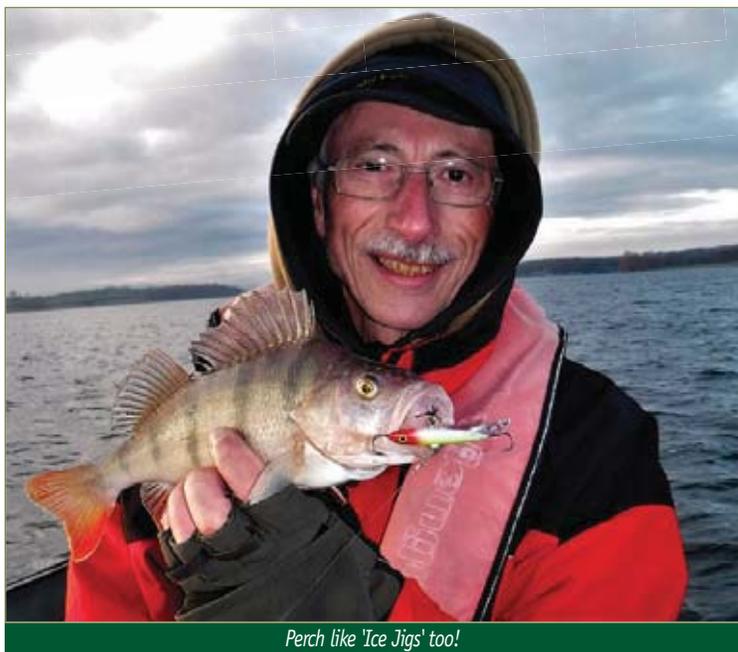


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Perch like 'Ice Jigs' too!

Rutland

I managed to fit in a two day trip to Rutland in early December, the weather as always had other ideas and my first day was written off due to heavy fog, no boats were allowed out on day one, doh! My good friend, Gord Burton AKA 'The Piking Pirate', joined me for day two. I was very aware that with such short days I would have to be very impatient, otherwise the day could easily slip by without us visiting enough "hot spots" in our effort to catch a few zander.

On the first few drifts, I scrutinised my echo sounder's screen for any signs of baitfish or zander. We were both fishing with different types of lures in an effort to quickly establish a successful method. I was using one of my current favourites an 'Ice jig', while Gordy was fishing a soft plastic 'split tail' lure. One small zed fell to Gordy early on, but I wasn't seeing enough to stay put so I made the decision to move. Our next spot was another deep-water mark out in the main basin towards the dam. As we drifted down a drop off on the screen filled up with fish that were holding tight to the feature. Gordy struck into another zander, slightly bigger this time, still on the 'split tail'. My ice jig hadn't worked so far, but I was confident that it was only a matter of time before it would. No more fish so we were off again to another of my 'marks', hot spots. That's the beauty of Rutland there are so many features I can spend a weekend there and still not fish all of my spots!



Gord Burton looks happy with this nice zed from Rutland

At last I got a gentle take, barely enough to register, but it was all the encouragement I needed to make further drifts in that area. Interestingly, we saw a lot of fish scattered throughout the area between two sets of 'marks'. Finally, I set the hook into a good zander; I didn't want to lose this one. Gordy offered to net it, but I declined preferring to hand land it, this saved time unhooking it, multiple hooked lures and landing net meshes are a nightmare. It's very important to return zander quickly before they can gas up.

Next drift and Gordy was in again! This time the rod tips knocking suggested it was not a zander but a perch. The next few drifts produced a fish for either Gordy or me, that was more like it. All too soon the activity ceased and we had to look elsewhere. As the light started to fade you would have expected the action to pick up but in true Rutland fashion the zander and perch stopped biting.

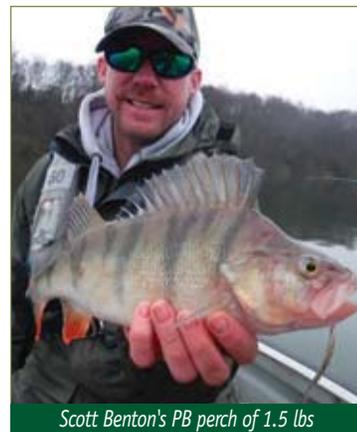


First perch to Eddie on a 'boys day out' at Bewl!

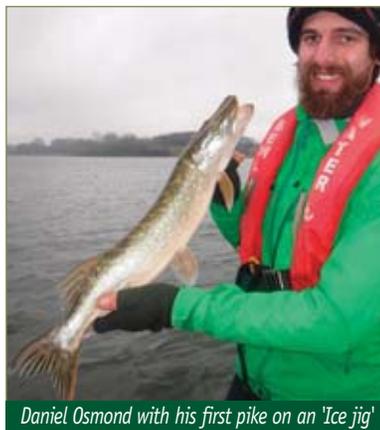
Bewl Water

With the short days of Winter, I've not wanted to travel too far so I've been spending a lot of time on Bewl Water. The pike are still proving elusive, but fortunately the perch have been more co-operative. I've been sharing boats with my usual fishing partners James Gardner and Gary Collins, two of the four amigos. Since the shop closed, I've had the opportunity to fish with several new people. I spent an enjoyable day with father and son Scott and Eddie Benton, two of the shop's regular customers. Nether had fished for perch or pike before so my first task was to tackle up a couple of rods with lures that could be fished "vertically". Next, I explained the technique which they both understood and mastered quickly. So all I had to do then was put them on fish, "simples"! I knew where several concentrations of perch were hanging out; the only problem was the lack of any wind which meant we weren't drifting. The lack of drift meant our lures were moving up and down, but not falling away from the fish which induces the takes. Scott and Eddie were using 'Ice Jigs' with a Dropshot hook about 6" [15cm] above, the "hybrid method". Their fish were mainly falling to the small soft plastic lure on the Dropshot hook. My presentation differed slightly, my main lure was a 15g spoon instead of the 'Ice Jig' and I was casting this combo in an effort to cover more water, plus as the spoon fluttered back towards the bottom its wobbling action put extra movement into the Dropshot lure. Several times after the spoon settled on the bottom I got taps and twitches on the rod tip which when I gave slack line produced perch on the soft plastic lure. We moved around from spot to spot and accumulated a few nice perch. The Benton's are both very competitive and the ribbing was relentless until dad Scott caught the best perch I've seen from Bewl this Winter. A small Pike took my spoon which added a little variety to our day and was the first pike either had seen close up.

My most recent guest was Daniel Osmond, another regular shop customer, until he went off to university. Dan was home for the holidays and with time to kill, we arranged a day's lure fishing on Bewl Water. Dan spends most of his time fishing from his kayak or from the rocks in the West Country, so reservoir boat fishing was going to be a whole new experience. Our game plan was to target pike first thing and if necessary switch to perch later if the pike were unresponsive. Bewl was busy again, mainly with "any method" trout fisherman. There were more pike anglers about than I've seen in a long while which was good to see, maybe I would see some pike being caught? We hit all of my best pike spots during the morning without any action at all! I kept an eye on the other pike boats, but didn't see any action there either. So all change and I tackled up two perch rods. We fished several new areas where we'd found huge shoals



Scott Benton's PB perch of 1.5 lbs



Daniel Osmond with his first pike on an 'Ice jig'

of baitfish in the morning but to no avail. Next move, we headed back to one of my regular haunts. The perch were less active than normal it appeared, so we had to work hard for the few fish we caught. Dan was unfamiliar with "Ice Jigs" or the "hybrid method", but when I eventually found us some co-operative perch, he started to catch a few, plus a bonus pike or two! Typical, you try all morning to catch pike and when you give up you catch two on the bounce! In conclusion, all the fish were nailed to the bottom and very "switched off", well that's my excuse, roll on the warmer weather when everything wakes up and starts feeding again!

Tight lines. Andy Lush

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



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Medway and Kent Sea Fishing Group



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February has always been noted by sea anglers as being a 'scratching' month with the dominant Winter species moving away and the Spring species yet to arrive. However, in recent years this appears to have changed with far more fish being available to anglers. The whiting will have thinned out and not be in the huge numbers that we have seen during the Winter and the thornbacks will be around in greater numbers. The first of the plaice, depending on weather conditions, will appear, especially around the Sussex coasts. The bass have remained right through the Winter and these will continue to be caught from now onwards. Many of you will have seen the change in the bass regulations. There is catch and release only for January, February and December, but anglers will be allowed to retain two fish above minimum size from March to November. We will have to wait and see if the UK's leaving the EU will affect this ruling!



Please remember that I welcome your catch reports for this section so don't be shy and send them in! This can be done via the Facebook page or by email. All the contact details are at the bottom of the inside front cover..

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL TACKLE SHOP!

Thames report courtesy of Wayne May

"Thames estuary fishing charters have been producing a few thornback rays, the odd plaice and plenty of dabs this month. They have been caught on a variety of baits from herring, squid, lug and ragworm, but targeting the codling squid and lug cocktails are preferable, for the thornbacks whole squid or herring baits on flowing traces. Further up the Thames, Morrisons pier Erith, Asda Greenhithe have all fished extremely well this winter, plenty of sizeable whiting and flounder have been caught. Greenhithe and Gravesend are both producing some early dabs, caught on ragworm and frozen dungey blacks, preferred rigs for these venues have been flapper rigs with #1 hooks. Targeting the whiting using lugworm or squid or cocktails on both pulley and flapper rigs has landed many fish this month."



NJ Fishing Tackle at Gravesend can supply all your tackle and fresh and frozen baits. Call 01474 353998.



Medway report

Plenty of whiting remain in the river with anglers catching from Gillingham as far back as Rochester esplanade. Gillingham pier has been popular and apart from whiting, a few bass and pouting, a couple of thornback rays were landed! Flounders have been fairly elusive, although a few smaller specimens have been caught. A conger eel was seen laying in a mud hole at Strood at low tide, but the circumstance are unknown.

Medway Tackle Supplies can provide all your tackle and fresh and frozen baits. Call 01634 475260.



Sheppey report courtesy of Sheppey Angling

"Catches have slowed somewhat in the last couple of weeks. The whiting numbers appear to be receding and those that have been caught are on the small side. Some dabs and flounders being taken along with a few school bass. The rays have temporarily moved offshore but will no doubt return in due course. My tip would be to fish at noted flounder marks this month."



Thanet report courtesy of Fisherman's Corner

"As the whiting numbers begin to thin out, the number of flattie's getting to the bait has increased!! Some nice dabs and good flounders have been caught from Ramsgate's East pier and Eastern esplanade. There has also been a few scorpion fish and even wrasse caught along the car park area at East Cliff. For any information on fishing Ramsgate or surrounding areas, contact local tackle shop, Fisherman's Corner 01843 582174."



Deal report courtesy of Channel Angling Deal

"The water around Deal beaches has been mostly clear of late making fishing in the daylight a bit hit and miss. However, as the whiting shrink in numbers and size, it is giving us a chance to target the dabs which are showing up mainly in the Sandwich area with some anglers catching up to 20 in a session with the odd plaice being a bonus. Night tides are still producing dogfish. Walmer and towards Kingsdown usually produce higher numbers. The thornback rays are beginning to make a show and for these you need to using fairly large fish baits such as bluey, herring, whole squid and mackerel fished on 3/0 hooks. It's worth lashing a couple of sandeels on either side of your bait with bait elastic as it can make a difference. Good luck to you all! Fred." Contact Channel Angling Deal on 01304 373104.



Hythe area report courtesy of Stevie Bates

"Although it has been cold and quite wet at times, the weather has been relatively calm with not too many big weather fronts churning the shoreline. This means the fishing has continued to be very good along the Hythe beaches and surrounding areas. Through the shoals of whiting, which will fall to almost any bait, you can expect to catch bass, thornbacks, dogfish, dabs, pouting and the odd flounder. Dabs are showing in good numbers falling to week old worm tipped with small pieces of squid or shellfish. Most are small, but there has been the odd nice dab giving hope that the better size fish will soon be making an appearance in good numbers. This is great news for the anglers that enjoy fishing a light set up in Winter for this delicious tasting fish. There has been the odd nice bass falling to whole fresh worm baits and I think there is still a chance that a bigger fish is lurking behind the breakers and yet to make an appearance. Thornback rays are still around in good numbers with anglers catching on day and night time tides. Bluey and sandeel is always a favourite, but any oily and heavily scented fish like herrings and mackerel give a good chance of finding the rays when they move in and out with the tide. Best time to fish anywhere along Hythe is 1-2 hours after HW with Dusk and Night tides still producing the better fish. **Your local tackle shop for bait and tackle is Dens Tackle 01303 267053. Good Luck & Tight Lines!**"



Eastbourne area report courtesy of Tony's Tackle

"This month's fishing has been superb with large bags of whiting with a few good bass, dabs and dogfish. Some good plaice turned up last week on black lug in the flat seas. Keeley Moule landed one of 40 cm from Langney Point. There have been reports of a few larger ones from Seaford beaches along with the odd sole turning up at Langney. Codling have been very short on the ground from South coast beaches this month although a few reported from the boats. Panther continues to land a few rays, codling and the odd bass. A small rare turbot was landed by Mike Conway from the shore this week. Gerald Sargeant won the angling club beach championship and Matt Cox won the Eastbourne Nomads beach championship. I managed to win the Nomads Xmas open thanks to the 10 lb plus bass pictured below picking up £460! Maddies, ragworm and lug can be ordered from Tony on 01323 731388. The bait digging has been horrendous in January, but hopefully it will improve. **Please send your catch reports to Tonystackle@mail.com or our website Tonystackle.co.uk** Tight lines for 2020."



Massive skate for Jeremy!

Many thanks to Dave Flint who kindly alerted me to this amazing report:

"At our Crowborough & District Committee meeting recently, we were presented with a claim for our "Fish of the Year" trophy from Jeremy Stone who caught the pictured skate with the following details: Caught from Armadale Shore, Isle of Skye on 5th Sept 2019 / Wingspan 5ft 6in / Length 6ft 6in / Weight calculated from above details as 171lb.

The current UK shore caught record is 169lb 6oz which was landed in 1994. There have been larger fish landed (up to 226lb) but these remain as calculated weight only as to be put forward for the record the fish has to be killed. You'll be pleased to know that Jeremy returned his fish to the sea to fight another day."



Richard finds the rays!

Richard Smith sent in this great report after a successful night on the beach:

"I headed out to target the rays the other evening and wasn't disappointed. I arrived at Dymchurch around 6pm to find an empty beach and the water at low tide. I set up my rod and reel rigged with a pulley dropper, Sakuma Manta Xtra 3/0 hook baited with bluey wraps. The wind had dropped off nicely with a flat calm sea, clear skies and a full moon to brighten everything up.

My first bite resulted in a whiting and I must admit I thought it was going to be a whiting 'fest', but I was wrong! I cast out again at distance and within five minutes I had a good slack line bite which resulted in a good size dogfish. On my third cast, after a wait of fifteen minutes, I had a pull down on the rod that I had been waiting for. I reeled in a thornback ray weighing just over 6lb. After a quick picture, I released it back to the sea. Baited up and cast out again and didn't have to wait long for another ray bite. This one was a similar size and released back to fight another day. The rays kept coming and after five, I had run out of bait so packed up just before 9pm. A very satisfying and enjoyable session!"



Sheppey Angling

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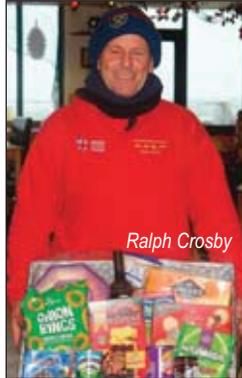
Tel: 01795 661089
07902 092595



Mark Hinxman

HASTINGS & ST LEONARDS AA BLACK CAT CHARITY BEACH MATCH

Fished on Boxing Day morning in really awful conditions of gale force southerly wind with some driving rain and a very big surf. The hardy souls who turned up were glad it was only for two hours! Bags consisted of mainly whiting. Top weight was 1lb 12oz for Ralph Crosby, 2nd was new kid on the block Ryan Foord with 1lb 7oz, 3rd overall scraping in was match organiser Mark Hinxman with 1lb 3oz. Money raised today topped £230 which will be going to the very deserving MacMillan Nurses.



Ralph Crosby

FIRST RIVER ADUR FLOUNDER MATCH

– 6th January report courtesy of Paul Robinson at Lagoon Bait & Tackle

Match was fished North of Cuckoo's Bridge

- Zone A 1st **Paul Robinson** -12 fish for 274 points £40
 2nd **Dave Wade** - 9 fish for 260 points £30
 3rd **Billy Potter New** -10 fish for 190 points £20
- Zone B 1st **Tom Ryder** - 5 fish for 80 points £40
 2nd **Joe Wales** - 3 fish for 75 points £30
 3rd **Martin Browning** - 2 fish for 42 points £20

As you can see both zones fished completely different which is why it's good to do 2 zones

A special well done to Dave Wade and Martin Browning for doing so well on their first flounder league match.



ASSO TWO DAY OPEN 2020 RESULTS

120 anglers fished this years event on Hythe parade in testing conditions with a strong south westerly wind. With over £7000 in cash and loads of Asso line up for grabs, the event attracted some of the best anglers from across the UK, Holland and Belgium.

DAY ONE winner was **Jacob Gainey** with 7.9kg of whiting, dogs and a 2.6kg thornback ray. Other zone winners on Day 1 were **Ben Richards**, **Saul Page** and **George Smith**.



DAY TWO was won by **Saul Page** with 11.7kg also including a 1.5kg ray, other zone winners were **Darren Bond**, **Karl Nangle** and **Brett Cotter**.

Overall champion with two zone wins was Asso Consultant and world number 1 **Saul Page** with Asso Consultant **George Smith** close behind with a first and a second. Third place went to **Ben Richards** from the Isle of Man.

- 1st **Saul Page** 2nd **George Smith** 3rd **Ben Richards**
 4th **Darren Bond** 5th **Julian Shambrook** 6th **Jacob Gainey**
 7th **Colin Crosby** 8th **Brett Cotter** 9th **Graham King**
 10th **Neil Marsh**.

Thanks to everyone who entered and special thanks to all those who helped with the organisation. Huge Congratulations to all winners.

One final thanks to Asso for their continued support of this event.

HASTINGS

report courtesy of Hastings Angling Centre

Lots of wet, mild but windy weather has meant very few chances for the boats to get afloat in the last month. On the odd day when they could get out, results have been mixed with some getting very little and a few had some luck with the pollack. The best heard of going 14lb. Very little sign of cod anywhere up the Channel.

On the beaches hordes of whiting, bit better size when rough but otherwise lots of undersize. Dabs and ling also showing now in numbers. The congers seem to have disappeared, possibly out to sea as it cools down.

Prospects for February - on the boats pollack will be the main target species with the big fish collecting on the deep wrecks prior to spawning. On the beaches, dabs and flounders with whiting and ling making the rods rattle. Hopefully the plaice will start coming in as well, though will probably be a bit thin after spawning.

December was quite busy for matches – see the report. **Dates for the Asso 5 man team qualifiers (also open beach matches) are: Round 1 - 15th February, Round 2 - 29th February, Round 3 - 15th March, last round 28th March.** Call Hastings Angling Centre 01424 432178 for details.

HASTINGS ANGLING CENTRE OPEN BEACH MATCH

This year's Hastings Angling Centre Open beach match was fished on Sunday in very mild conditions with a gentle southerly breeze and very welcome sunshine. After some good winds earlier in the week, the sea was still quite coloured. There were lots fish caught, unfortunately most of them were undersize whiting.

Top Rod was **Mick Snelling** picking up the £300 first prize! Mick had 21 fish for 6lb 8oz and was fishing at the New Church beach.



Winner Mick Snelling

A SECTION

- 1st **Dave Falk** 5lb 7oz
 2nd **Ralph Crosby** 5lb 4oz
 3rd **Darren Bond** 4lb 12oz



Dave Falk - Whiting



Ralph Crosby

B SECTION

- 1st **Nick May** 5lb 12oz
 2nd **Stephen Hanks** 3lb 12oz
 3rd **Mark Rogers** 3lb 8oz

C SECTION

- 1st **Colin Crosby** 2lb 12oz
 2nd tied **Brett Green** 2lb 11.3oz / **Steve Arthur** 2lb 11.3oz, same number of fish also.



Colin Crosby



Pairs Winners



Maralyn Wicks



Paul Tiltman

Heaviest flatfish and top lady was **Maralyn Wicks** with a sole of 14.4oz sole

Heaviest round fish was a bass of 14oz caught by **Paul Tiltman**

Winning pair was **Darren Bond** and **Dave Falk** with 10lb 3oz.

Thanks to the organisers Colin and Ralph Crosby and Mark Hinxman for a very well run event, Hastings & St Leonards AA for hosting the event and Hastings Angling Centre for sponsoring the competition.

MASTERING MULLET - PART TWO

In the UK we have three species of mullet, thick lipped mullet, thin lipped mullet and the golden grey mullet. We do also have a fish named the red mullet, however this is not a true mullet and is not related to the other mullets.

Golden grey mullet are the smallest of the three, with a two pound fish being considered a specimen. Identifying these fish can be tricky, they have a golden area on the gill plates, but so do the other two species, it's just more pronounced on the golden grey. I have not targeted the golden grey mullet, but they can be caught on scaled down beach tactics using small hooks on paternoster rigs baited with rag worm.

The thin lipped mullet, as its name suggests, has thinner lips, a four pound fish is a good one, but fish to five pounds are not rare. The thin lipped mullet travels far up estuaries into rivers and can often be seen swimming alongside coarse fish. These fish can be caught on very small Mepps spinners baited with small rag worm.



A Medway mullet of 6lbs 10zs

My experience is with the thick lipped mullet, the largest of the three, some even growing to weights into double figures.

There are many myths regarding mullet, the most widespread being that mullet have very delicate soft mouths. Roach and rudd have delicate soft mouths, mullet do not! I cannot emphasize enough how wrong this myth is. Fish have only two priorities, to feed and breed. Mullet are no different. Like nearly all other fish, mullet are opportunists, exploiting whatever food source is the most commonly available. This often leads to them ripping weed from the undersides of boats and pontoons, these areas are covered in barnacles and would soon destroy a delicate soft mouth. Once hooked, a mullet is rarely lost through the hook pulling, if you are regularly losing fish through hook pulls, change your hooks, they are probably too small. Mullet do in fact have mouths like old rubber boots, the mouth does have a strange shape and like carp, they suck and blow lots when feeding making hooking at times tricky, but once hooked, the hook rarely pulls out.

Mullet frequent the creeks and shallow flats of our estuaries and coastlines, harbours and marinas are also great areas to find good numbers of mullet. Mullet scrape the mud with their undersides filtering out the small edible morsels. This leaves marks in the mud that we anglers can see at low tide, giving away the feeding areas. The marks look like someone has scraped two lines with two fingers in the mud.

The key to regularly catching mullet is ground baiting, they need persuading to eat what you are offering. Mullet can get preoccupied feeding on one thing to the point where it seems impossible to catch them, however, regularly baiting the same areas will work and with patience, an angler will get them to eat the offerings.

I have caught thick lipped mullet on a multitude of baits, harbour rag worm, sweetcorn, maggots and mackerel flesh. I have even heard of them being caught on strips of banana skin! Without doubt, the easiest bait to catch them on is good old fashioned bread. It's not necessarily better than any other bait, but it is easy to source and use.

There are some beaches that large quantities of weed build up on. When the wind is blowing up the beach for several tides, it forms large heaps all along the beach.

After a time the weed starts decomposing, this attracts flies that lay eggs in the rotting weed piles. The eggs hatch into maggots, then the incoming tides washes the maggots into the water. This is nature doing the ground baiting for the angler. Mullet soon learn

that there is an easy food source and there numbers build. If an angler is lucky enough to locate one of these beaches, they can have some excellent sport. Obviously maggots are the bait to use with no ground baiting needed. This is the only time that I use smaller hooks, size 10-12 hooks, baited with one or two maggots fished fairly shallow under a float. Again depths should be experimented along with shotted patterns until you find how the mullet wants the bait presented. As small hooks are being used the angler must play the fish gently to avoid hook pulls. This should not be an issue as most beaches have very few snags and the mullet can be played in open water. I would recommend walking along the beach away from the shoal to minimise spooking the feeding fish.



A Crouch jetty mullet of 6lbs 12ozs

Sadly for various reasons, more and more harbours and marinas have banned fishing, however if you're lucky enough to own or have access to a boat moored in a harbour or marina, you might be able to fish from the boat. These areas can be excellent for mullet fishing, the mullet are used to eating scraps thrown over the side by the boaters so getting them to feed on bread can be a lot easier than say a creek. Mesh sacks full of bread or a mixture of mashed bread and fish hung from the pontoons around the boat will eventually attract the mullet, as will loose feeding bread. Loose feeding is probably easier for a day session. The bread needs feeding little and often, I tend to pinch pea sized bits of bread so they sink slowly. I also like some of the free offerings to float, mullet will take floating crust free lined in amongst the free offerings. However, floating crust is only going to work if there is no wind, if it is windy the offerings will be blown out of your fishing area, it will be very frustrating to watch the mullet feeding only not to be able to reach them. Loose feeding or mesh sacks full of bread will work in most locations, the most important thing is to know that mullet are present in numbers. Once you notice that there are a few mullet feeding on your ground bait, I find it best to wait before fishing, keep the bait going in little and often and let the numbers of fish build. What you are trying to achieve is competition between the fish, the more competition there is, the more confidently the mullet will accept your bait. The angler needs to ring the changes and adapt his gear to suit. If you have an area that dries out at low tide, it is well worth baiting this area just before the water starts to cover it on an incoming tide. Often as soon as there is enough water to cover their back, the mullet will move in and start searching for food. The depth fished should be adjusted throughout the session. Sometimes mullet want a slow sinking bait and will take on the drop, other times they want a bait hard on the bottom. For this I like to use the lift bite technique, this is a favourite method for tench anglers. A float is set up so it just sinks, all the shot is placed about three inches from the hook. The float is then set so just half inch is above the surface, when the mullet picks up the bait invariably the float will lay flat indicating that the fish has the bait in its mouth and has lifted the shot from the bottom, at this point the angler needs to strike.

Rods should be strong but don't go over gunned, a barbel or light carp rod of a pound and a half test curve is perfect. The rod needs to be soft enough to absorb the lunges and runs but have enough back bone to stop a fish getting into snags. Reels should have a nice smooth clutch and need to be loaded with 6 to 8lb test line. I started my



A Crouch Marina mullet of nearly 7lbs

mullet fishing using four pound test line and landed plenty of fish, but I also got smashed by many mullet. They have a habit of finding structures like pilings and poles to wrap you around, these are rough and the line soon parts.

When fishing areas with structures the fish need to be bullied away from snags where they can be played safely. Hook size depends on bait size. I don't go smaller than a size ten and have used hooks as large as a size two, but for most mullet fishing I use a size six wide gape pattern.

Mullet fishing is very exciting as the fish can normally be seen taking your bait, they

can mess about with your bait sucking it in and blowing it out right in front of your eyes. This can be very frustrating as it makes striking pot luck, again this is the reason why I often wait for numbers and competition to build.

There is one method of mullet fishing where you can't see the fish and where the bites are more like bass bites than the normal mullet bite. Years ago, I noticed mullet feeding under the jetties that jut out from the river Crouch in Essex, these were good mullet. The problem I had was that there is a lot of tide running past the jetties with only a half an hour on each tide of slack water. As time is needed with mullet fishing to gain their confidence this half an hour of slack water was not enough. At that time I had a small fast fishing boat on the Crouch, so I loaded it with sacks of stale bread and anchored the boat twenty yards up tide of one of the quieter jetties. I then loaded up two mesh sacks with mashed bread, each sack had two pound pot leads attached to hold them in the tide. I then lowered them over the back of the boat and gave them a good shake. One rod was set up with a larger than normal float. I chose a float that could hold two or three swan shot, the depth was set between five and seven feet deep and the swan shot placed around half way between the float and the hook. The idea was to get my bait to flutter under the floats that hold up the pontoons that make up the jetty. The mesh sacks were then regularly shaken to release bread particles, these particles would be carried down with the tide slowly sinking as they went. As the ground bait reached the jetty it would be roughly the same depth as my hook bait and hopefully where the mullet were feeding. The plan worked but I almost lost my rod while rolling a cigarette. I was not expecting the rod to just arch over and it was only the reel jamming against the gunwale that prevented me losing my outfit. Looking back, I should have worked this out before I started and set my clutch appropriately. As there was so much tide the ground bait moved past the mullet very quickly, the fish had no choice but to grab it fast before it had gone, they then moved off slamming the rod over much like fishing uptide of a sand bar for bass with a rolling lead.

Many years ago, I was fishing this method with my long-time friend Simon Manning at Wallasea Marina, we had the mesh sacks over the side and were trotting baits down tide to a pontoon behind us. Simon hooked a mullet that screamed off so hard and so fast that Simon just had to tighten up on it to prevent it reaching a structure, the rod locked up and Simon just held on, the line gave with a crack and the fish was lost. Simon did go on to land a mullet just over six pounds that day. This method is very explosive and exciting, but my favourite method is still taking mullet from the top on floating crust, I have taken three mullet that were all just shy of seven pounds from the top.

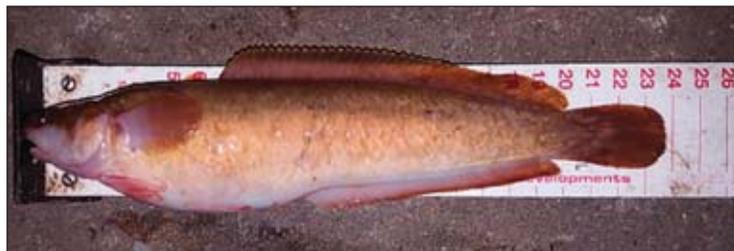
There is a lot more to mullet fishing than I can cover, but with only a few weeks left in the freshwater fishing season, I can highly recommend any angler trying to catch a mullet. Just be careful it is very addictive!"

Tight lines, Sam Cox

THAMES FLOUNDER HUNT

Daniel Terry sent in this report after a session on the Thames with fishing mate Peter Upton:

"With the Medway being packed full of whiting this time of year, I have been heading out on a few trips to the Thames with Peter Upton over the past month with reasonable success and a few mixed bags of fish during the sessions. My first trip of 2020 was a night session on a flounder hunt at Gravesend with Peter Upton. It was a lot calmer than expected with hardly any wind. It was pretty quiet compared to past trips on the flounder side, but we still managed four small flounders and a small bass with Peter having a fair sized rockling on Medway Tackle Supplies rag and he lost what we think was a decent flounder close in which gave a good account for itself but sadly dropped off. I was surprised not to see a whiting which was strange as usually we have had a few thrown in. The few past trips have seen a fair amount of flounders with myself having fish around the 27cm mark. Peter has had a 32cm so far this flounder season which was a nice size. The nights seemed to produce a lot more fish including bass, rockling, pouting and whiting. We have had some enjoyable sessions and it is nice to target a few species away from the whiting!"



Now we are entering the 'guts' of the winter, but as I write this, we have sea temperatures of 9 degrees, very warm, no wonder we have so many fish about.

BEACH REPORT

Here are a few of my reports coming in over Christmas and the New Year.

A nice Xmas present for Craig...

I had this great report in from Craig last night...well done for going...the fish are there...

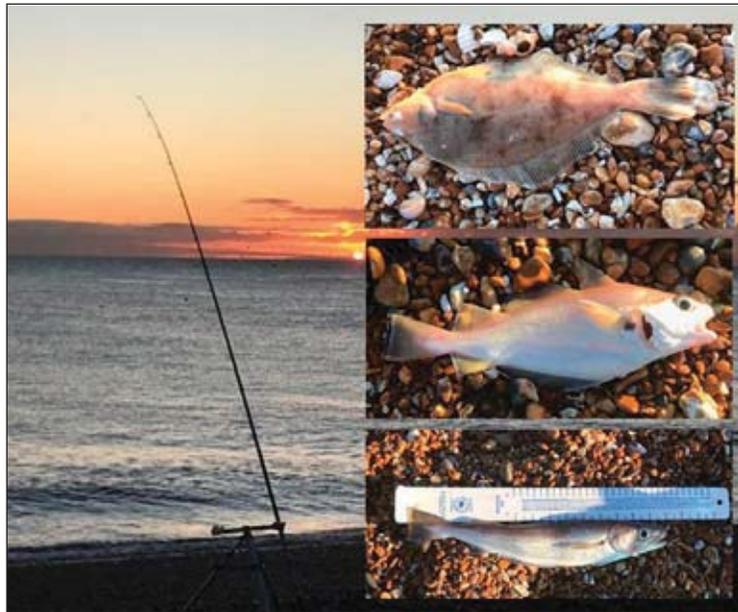
"Evening Tony, braved the wind last night with a friend down by the boats at Hythe. Fished quite well over high water plenty of colour in the water, wasn't harassed too much with the Whiting, managed a few nice size pouting and dogs. Tide dropped off along with the wind so the ray baits went out. Bluey and prawn on pulley droppers. We managed a few out but nothing big. Happy Christmas. Craig Wright "



It was a beautiful morning...

I had this report in this morning from Ian Milligan, who fished Christmas day...I think Ian that's a flounder...

"Fished from 8:00am to 2:30pm at the back of the boats. The sea was fairly calm with a bit of colour in it. It was a good day with Dabs, Dogs, Whiting and a Pouting. Only had frozen lug but it worked well with squid, but The big whiting were all caught on strips of Bluey. The seal was in the area but it didn't seem to put the fish off."



Beautiful Day...great turnout...

Yesterday we held the 2nd Nick Burton's Memorial match at Galloways. Nick was a popular local angler who was taken before his time...he loved Galloways and yesterday was tremendous weather and turnout, 34 anglers, Nicks friends competed for Nick's memorial trophy. Superbly run and organised by my mate Steve Harvey for the second year. Here are the results posted by Steve last night...

"Results for today's match at Galloways

- 1st Alex Veal 1.46 dogfish
- 2nd Drian Partridge 1.42 dogfish
- 3rd Roy Godden 1.32 dogfish
- 4th Trevor Froud 1.16 dogfish

33 anglers and 1 donation ...means we raised £340 for the RNLI ...Thank you to all who fished and donated....hope to do this again next year"



Lovely starry night, to start the year

I had this report in this afternoon from Phil Mahoney...

"Fished Imperial Hotel end of Hythe Friday 3rd January from 3.30 p.m till around 9 p.m. plenty of bites Whiting and some good size Dogs . Was a clear evening plenty of stars with no rain thankfully . Very pleasurable evening just never know when to pack up there's always one more fish to be caught. First trip of the year was good to get out and catch. Phil"



Dungeness won't be the same...

I had some sad news over the weekend...Anthony sent me a photo...after many years of leaning over the sixties wooden Diamond shaped trawler mark...just below the power stations so well known to Dungeness beach anglers, has fallen over 'giving up the fight' with the eroding beach...



BEACH OUTLOOK FOR FEBRUARY

I think I need mystic Meg...with the warm sea temperatures anything is possible. But this time of year traditionally we are looking for dabs and flounder.

BEST BAITS

Traditionally 'old' or frozen lugworm is best for dabs, tipped off with a bit of sprat to pick out the better fish...hence 'sprat dabs'.

BOAT REPORTS

Here are a few reports coming into my site over Christmas and New Year...

Nice sunny day...nice brace...

I had this report in today from Anthony out on Peganina (07989 778361) from Rye...

"Garath with his brace of pollack from Saturday's wrecking trip."



Good mixed bag for 'Foggy'...

I had this report in last night from Jerry Oiller of Fairchance fame launching from Dungeness...

"Fairchance fishing Dungeness 01797 363544 Today. Dave Foggy Robinson aboard today along with Mr Newman, Dave tried for a Thornback, managed to scratch out 5, he also had a good Spurdog...returned, ,,and a reasonable Smooth Hound, Mackerel and Large Whiting also caught. Mr Newman fished for Squid and Turbot, with no success. Happy Days."



Kicking off the New Year in style..

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

"Some photos from the last week at sea - it's been tough going, lots of steaming around looking, although today was considerably better on the pollack - over 25 plus boated!!"



Start 2020 with mackerel, squid...

I had this report in this evening from Jerry Oiller out on Fairchance from Dungeness beach...

"Fairchance fishing Dungeness 01797 363544 Today. The 2020 Squid Season is under way, a nice day Drifting mid Channel for the Squid today, managed to boat 27 good sized ones, plenty of Mackerel and Tub Gurnard also caught ,a nice day to be afloat. Happy Days".



BOAT OUTLOOK FOR FEBRUARY

With such unseasonal warm seas we have so many species around...even mackerel! The wrecks are producing nice pollack. But as usual this time of year it's the weather...wind up and down, you have to find a 'weather window', so be prepared to get afloat at short notice.

BEST BAITS

Fish baits rule supreme, fresh mackerel, herring or 'bluey' are my favourite...big scent trail helps.

The Ray Whisperer!



James Clifton had a night session on the island and sent in these catch photos.

He had 10 in total with the biggest around biggest 6-7lb.

COARSE FISHERIES

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

TROUT FISHERIES

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

ANGLING CLUBS / SOCIETIES

Bromley (Kent) & District AS	bdas-kent-enquiry@bdaskent.co.uk
PO Box 895, East Grinstead RH19 9ND	
Hastings, Bexhill & District	Chris Pagan 07429 655237 Steve Potter 07935 268174
Postal enquiries: S.Corke, 2 The Siding, Bexhill-on-Sea TN40 1RF	
Linton Angling Society	Chris Knowler 07712 622858
chris@lintonangling.co.uk	
Teise Anglers & Conservation Society	07960 518738
Membership enquiries to email: teisesecretary@gmail.com	
Further information at www.teiseanglers.org.uk	
Tonbridge & District A & FPS	Donna 07947 557140
PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB	
Wantsum Angling Association	robtuckbrown@hotmail.com
Rob Tuck-Brown (secretary) 07484 144561	

TACKLE & BAIT SUPPLIES

Absolute Tackle	01227 636724 07809 330854
12 Wealden Forest Park, Herne Common CT6 7LQ	
Bodle Angling	01444 247757
Southdown Store, Cuckfield Road, Burgess Hill RH15 8RE	
Camos Carp Cabin	01843 581784
11 Turner Street, Ramsgate CT11 8NJ	
www.camoscarpabin.net	
Carpers Den	01233 850644
Ashford Road, High Halden, Ashford TN26 3LJ	
Channel Angling	01304 203742
158-160 Snargate Street, Dover CT17 9BZ	
Crowborough Tackle	01892 667671
Shop 2, Lexden Lodge, Crowborough Hill, Crowborough TN6 2EG	
Dens Tackle	01303 267053
73 Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6JN	
Fishing Tackle & Bait	07724 776031
Ralph's Farm Shop & Nursery, Wierton Road, Boughton Monchelsea ME17 4JW	
Henfold Bait & Tackle	07956 043922
Henfold Lakes, Henfold Lane, Newdigate, Dorking RH5 4RW	
Hooked on Green	01825 760139
Unit 2, Bellbrook Industrial Estate, Uckfield TN22 1QL	
Kent Tackle	01580 754422
Hawkhurst Fish Farm, Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	
Medway Tackle Supplies	01634 475260
11 Twydall Green, Gillingham ME8 6JY	
NJ Tackle	Tel: 01474 353998
150 Milton Road, Gravesend DA12 2RG	
Orchard Tackle	Tel: 07494 670328
58 High Brooms Road, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9DB	
Sheppey Angling	Tel: 01795 661089
Unit 5, Regis Business Park, New Road, Sheerness ME12 1HA	
South London Angling Centre	Tel: 0208 852 4451
286 Lee High Road, London SE13 5PJ	
Sues Tackle Cabin	Tel: 01797 225015 07980 290247
The Spice Warehouse, Rye Harbour Road, Rye TN31 7TE	
Tony's Tackle Shop	Tel: 01323 731388
211 Seaside Road, Eastbourne BN22 7NP	
Trade in Tackle	Tel: 01622 814296 07941 085011
Maidstone Road, Watlington ME18 5EH	

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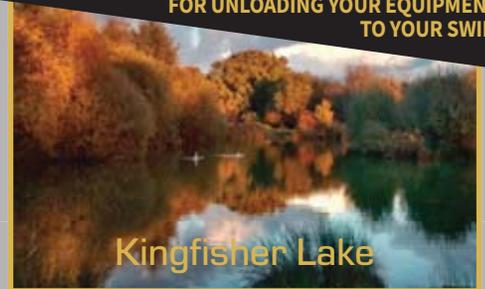
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