

FRESHWATER INFORMER



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BODLE ANGLING



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Hello and a very warm welcome to the 'New' Freshwater Informer!

It has been a long time since we were together, but finally we are back after some very difficult months for all of us!

As many will already be aware, the magazine will now be produced as a 'digital only' publication. After an awful lot of thought and deliberation, I made the bold and brave decision to move the magazine forward in to the 'new era'. The magazine continues to be available for FREE as a download and accessible not only to anglers in the South East, but to anglers nationwide and indeed worldwide! The cost for print every month was a huge one and coupled with six days devoted to distribution, it was indeed a costly business. However, I will miss all the coffee stops and gossip that I used to enjoy along the way! If shops and fisheries think that they have seen the last of me they are wrong as I will still venture out and pop in to have a catch up whenever possible, but, it does mean that I will be able to devote even more time to the region's leading angling magazine every month.

There are indeed both positive and negative implications to this major move. I do understand that many people do not use the internet and I am really sorry that those readers will be unable to pick up a paper copy or have one delivered to their home. I seriously considered the environmental and sustainability impact of paper production as the magazine would use in the region of 15 tonnes of paper each year plus gallons of ink. Distribution saw around 1200 miles covered every month using around 320 gallons of diesel each year. Production and distribution alone accounted for two thirds of the magazine's income every month! The magazine still relies on the support of our valued advertisers and I am delighted and grateful to those businesses who have pledged their support to the 'new' Freshwater Informer. To demonstrate my gratitude and support to them, I have passed on a considerable advertising saving to them as my costs have reduced, I felt that this was a just and a moral thing to do.

For those readers who have previously viewed the magazine online, you will notice a considerable improvement to the new layout and format creating a far more enjoyable reading experience, with pages substantially 'decluttered' to make it easier to read.

Although the 'lockdown' was necessary, it did create a lot of difficulties for people and many businesses have felt real financial pain, none more so than our tackle shops. Many were able to implement a 'Click & Collect' type of service, but many were not, so they will certainly welcome you to their establishments once again. It was good news when fisheries were allowed to open up and they have certainly been well attended, especially with so many workers currently furloughed. However, it won't be long before everyone will have to return to work and the children return to education. It has most certainly been a surreal year and we are only half way through!

You will find many of your favourite articles and features in the magazine as before, but, if there is anything you feel we should be covering or you would like to see, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Any feedback you have on this new style of magazine will be most welcome.

If you would like to consider advertising in the Freshwater Informer and enjoy the lower cost of promoting your business, please get in touch via the contacts below for an informal, no obligation chat.

Don't forget that the magazine's advertisers can benefit from extra publicity with posts on our very popular Facebook page at no extra cost!

Enjoy your fishing, Barry Reed

The Freshwater Informer

6 Meadow Way | Wouldham | Rochester ME1 3GR

e: barnic@btinternet.com

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COPY DEADLINE for AUGUST 2020
WEDNESDAY 22nd JULY 2020

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Super session at Frant for the Lewingtons!

Rachel and Craig Lewington had a great session at Frant Lakes and sent us this report:

"We've had another amazing session on lake 7 at Frant Lakes. We fished swim 13 (double swim). In total we landed 14 fish and lost 4. CJ caught most of the fish including his stunning new PB. Rachel managed to net two beauties, including her second largest...so overall a brilliant session. On another note, Smurf was great, as usual, providing lovely hot food. Weights ranged from 6 lbs to 25 lbs 4 ozs. All were caught on Maple Cream pop ups (pink/yellow & white) with a scattering of spod mix and maple cream boilies from Etang Baits."



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Telephone bookings are to be paid in advance and are non-refundable • Credit and Debit cards now accepted

Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

The fishery has been extremely busy of late, but here is a sample of some of the great catches made recently here at Beaver Fishery:

Snipe Lake



Andy Hindle 19-00



Chris Lee 19-04



Scott Harvey 27-04



Ryan Meloy 30-02 PB



Shane Chilton 26-02

Tuscany Lake



Lawrence Atwell 50-15



Rui Pedro 50-04



Chris Jones 53lbs



Charlie Green



Julien McConnell 51lbs



Jon Wilson, one of his 1st ever cats

Eden Pond



Benjamin Darch



Richard Darch

Maze Lake



Trevor Pavitt

Daughters Lake



Ashley Dearlove 15-00 First Grassie



Bill - Stockie

Majors Lake



Dave Thomas 22-08



Liam Champion



Curtis Young 25-08



George Hess 15-09

Elphicks Fisheries Horsmonden, Kent



Jay Potter 34lb 4oz - Westend

Lawrence Harris - Kettles Lake

Richard Searle 29lb - Prairie Lake

JACK FROST



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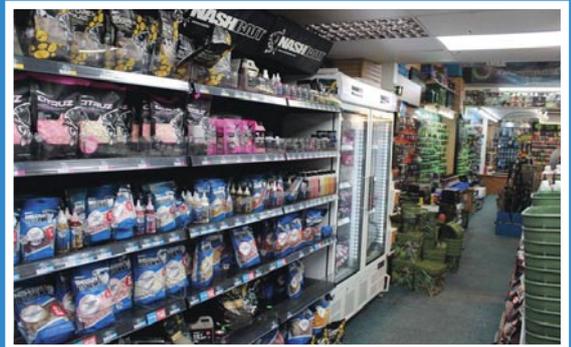
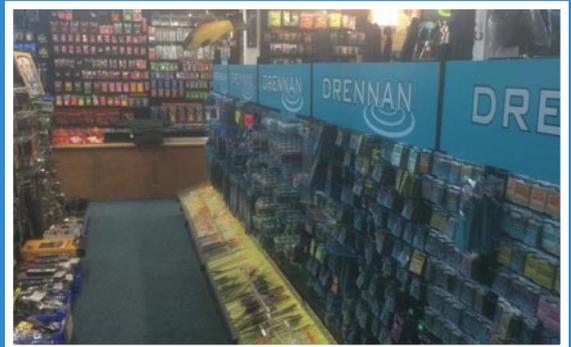
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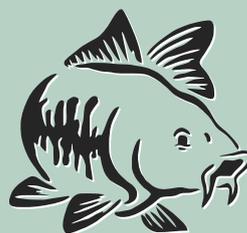
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Shirkoak Fishery and B&B

Shirkoak fishery is now under new ownership!

Since taking over in November, we have removed some of the smaller carp and introduced 37 bigger scaley mirrors to mid-20s. This is part of our ongoing stocking programme.

Fishing prices start at £12.00 for 2 rods for 12 hours.



We are also offering B&B facilities in the farmhouse for those who prefer a more comfortable night's sleep.



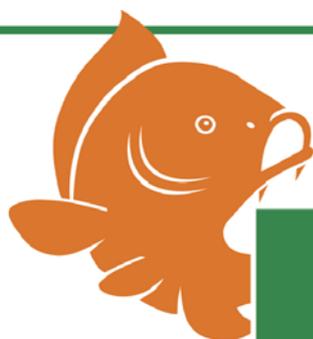
Shirkoak Fishery, Bethersden Road, Woodchurch,
Ashford, Kent TN26 3PZ

For more info please call **Hugh** on 07973 410973

Follow us on Facebook "Shirkoak Fishery" for regular updates



www.shirkoakfarm.com



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Fish up to 121lbs in the lake.

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Loei Jungle Fishing Lake



Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society

Barden Lake Since the return of fishing from lockdown restrictions, Barden has fished very well up until the recent hot spell. Several of the bigger fish have made an appearance and there have been some good multiple fish captures over the current 48hr sessions. Society bailiff **Andy Bungay** had a good trip, catching fish of 30lb and 39lb 8oz. There have also been some large tench caught to 11lb 9oz and reports of very large bream to upper double figures.



The Old Ballast Pit Another one of the Society's waters that regularly fishes well. Several fish to the mid twenties have been caught including the well known 'Smalltail', the Society's oldest known fish. **Kristy Knowlden** continues to catch well on here, having recently caught good sized carp, bream and tench. Some good bags of roach and rudd have also been reported.



Longfield Lake Plenty of bream and a few tench being caught by pleasure anglers and the odd carp to the overnight anglers.

Haysden Lake Up until recently, this lake had been fishing terribly due to gin clear water and lots of weed but a couple of reports have come in this week to say that bream were being caught on the feeder.

The New Lagoon This little gem has attracted a lot of new members, probably down to the quality tench fishing available. It's also a great place for our junior members to come and fish and get plenty of bites and the chance of a quality fish of various species. Regular junior visitor **Alex Stokes** done well on his latest trip with dad **Gareth**. Alex had a lovely tench of 7lb 5oz and several bream to 3lb 6oz. One of our newest junior members **Ashleigh Bungay** had a great visit, catching tench to 4lb 2oz and carp to just shy of 5lb. **Jason Craven** also had several tench to over 6lb, **Russell Battell** had 14 tench to 5lb+ and 3 carp to 4lb. **Austin Battell** had 18 tench to 5lb 6oz, several bream to 5lb 6oz and carp to 4lb 11oz.



Weirwood Reservoir Good mixed fishing from the banks with bream to 6lb+, roach to 1lb 8oz and good sized hybrids. Perch fishing from the boats has been challenging but the odd good fish to 4lb has been caught. **Austin Battell** had a good mixed day with the predators, fishing the dropshot he caught perch to 2lb 3oz and pike to 14lb 4oz.



River Medway All sections have fished well from the start of the new season. Good reports from Hartlake Up and Downstream with plenty of 8oz chub showing and roach to 1lb+. The Long Reach and Bungalows has been fishing very well with roach to well over 1lb and good sized bream and perch, also the odd carp being caught. Double figure bags of roach have been consistent during late afternoon/evening sessions. **Mick Smith** and **Duncan Battell** both had all roach bags of around 14lb.

T&DA & FP Society Match result THE PADLEY BOWL

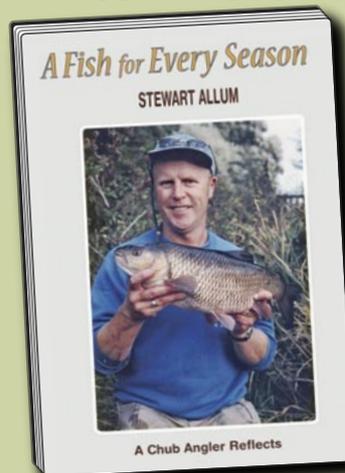
- Bungalows and Long Reach - 25 fished

1st	Ray Berry	26lb 4oz
2nd	Ed Palmer	10lb 10oz
3rd	Dave Lee	3lb 13oz

Membership enquiries to **Donna**
07947 557140



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



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

Tel. **07909 090983**

Email: sales@thelittleegretpress.co.uk

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

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

Hawkhurst Fish Farm

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Club
and Match
Bookings
Welcome



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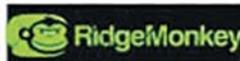


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BETWEEN ASHFORD AND TENTERDEN ON A28**

Claygate Lakes Claygate, Marden, Kent



Well we opened up on Wednesday to find out that Google had listed us as temporarily closed. We contacted them and had the listing changed, only to be met by a queue at the gates the next morning. It has been nice to see the regulars back at the fishery along with new faces turning up to fish.

Lake Amy It was nice to see regulars **Matt** and **Adam** back on the lake, what a session they had both setting new PB's. Adam had a few carp including a 32lb, whilst his mucker Matt ended up with a PB of 33lb. Also in the same session Matt had a 27lb, 2x 25lb's and a 22lb...Oh Happy Days! The carp seem to have spawned 3 times on this lake, I don't know if the third time was for the greedy ones or the ugly ones having a go!



Lake Eva We have had bivvy's up around the lakes with people catching fish in to the 20's plus loads of 10-15lbs fish during the evening and into the night. Fishing off the top is working well during the afternoon and evening periods.

Lake Sophie Fishing has been up and down with the weather, but when the carp switch off the silvers have been showing with loads of tench coming out of the low number swims.



Please be aware of the COVID 19 Rules in place at the fishery

- Please stop at the sign in the car park, pay at the snack wagon before you park up.
- Use sanitiser after visiting the toilet.
- Lake SOPHIE is every other peg unless you are from the same household.
- Our toilet and shower facilities are fogged with anti virus spray 3 times each day and all high contact areas are sanitised regularly.
- Movement sensor lights have been fitted in the WC/ shower area for your convenience.
- If you would like to see the fogging taking place or would like more information, give Dave a call on **07770 513448** and he can advise you on measures you can take to protect your work areas. We are Approved Sprayers for Anichem Sanitisation.



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please ring Dave **07770 513448**
NIGHT FISHING ON ALL LAKES



LAKE AMY - Carp to upper 30s



LAKE EVA match/pleasure - Carp 27lb+ Tench 11lb+ Chub 5lb+
Barbel 6lb+ Perch 5lb+ Bream and other silvers



LAKE SOPHIE match/pleasure - Carp 16lb+ Tench 8lb+
Chub 5lb+ Barbel 4lb+ Perch 3lb+ Bream 11lb+ Roach 2lb+
Skimmer Bream and other silvers



www.newclaygatelakes.co.uk



Opening times:
Mon-Fri: 8.00am to 5.30pm
Sat: 8.00am to 12.30pm
Sunday: Closed
Bank Holiday: Closed



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



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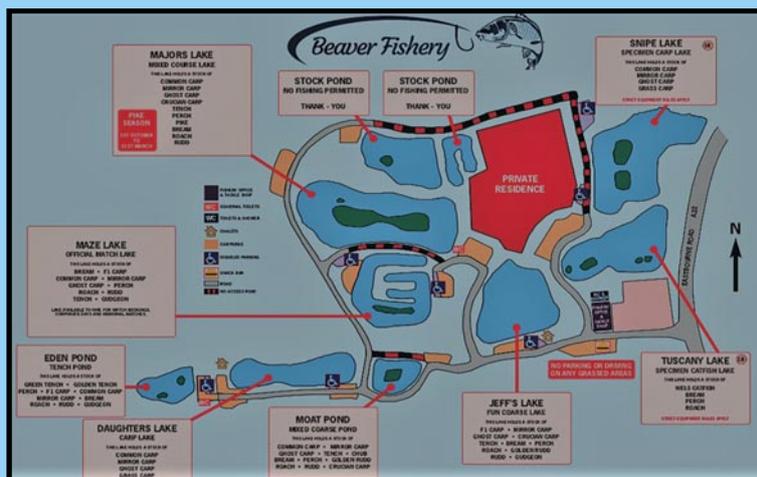
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We are a commercial day ticket fishery and have 2 Specimen Lakes, 3 Coarse Lakes and 3 Ponds.
Open 7am - 7pm Summer time and 7am - 6pm Winter time. Day ticket, overnight and long stays welcome.

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- 12 Car Parks including Disabled Parking
- Match, Corporate and Memorial Bookings Welcome
- No pre-bookings taken for swims
- Concessionary Tickets for Junior, Disabled and OAPs
- Win a FREE SESSION with our Fish of the Month Competition

Great start to the season for William!

William Benningfield has had a remarkable start to his season! I have been delighted to receive reports from him and his dad Andrew during 'lockdown'.

His dad, Andrew, sent in this great report of a session that William had recently: "William has had an unbelievable session last Thursday night and Friday morning. It's the best start to a season he's ever had. Granted he's only 16, but he has caught some great fish!

William was at the DDAPS water at Horton Kirby and within half an hour he had a 27lb! During the night he followed that up with several others including a 19, 18, 16, 15, 13 and a few around 10lbs then finished the session with a 17lb 8oz common during his night at around 8.30pm in the margins in just 2 feet of water!

All the fish caught on Xcel KSC pop ups on a Ronnie Rig."





Welcome to FRANT LAKES

Frant Lakes is an immaculate eight lake complex set in 150 acres of beautiful countryside on the Kent/Sussex border.



OUR six main lakes and two specimen waters contain mature English carp to 35lbs +, perch to 4 lbs + along with a fine selection of pristine bream, roach, tench, ghost carp, Orfe, chub and dace. Please note that anglers must be aged 18 or over to fish the specimen lakes.



WHATEVER your style of fishing might be, Frant Lakes will provide you with the finest day's fishing in surroundings you will truly appreciate and enjoy!



THE spacious modern lodge at the front of the complex houses the booking office, a tackle shop, our 5* hygiene rated cafe and the most immaculate shower and toilet facilities that you will not find anywhere else. There are separate



Frant Lakes

Hawkenbury Road
Bells Yew Green
Tunbridge Wells TN3 9AP

01892 616424

facilities for ladies and gentlemen and both are maintained to the very highest standard. Our cafe is currently working within the Covid-19 guidelines, please call for update on service available.

**Frant Lakes
new booking
system is
NOW LIVE!**

SINCE re-opening the complex following the Coronavirus outbreak, we have changed the way in which anglers are booked on to the lakes.

THE six main lakes are now open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday for day fishing only and swims must be booked via our new online booking system. To book your swim, please visit

www.frantlakes.com and you will find the big red button. By clicking on the 'Book Now' button, you will then be redirected to the '**Castbooker**' booking page where you can book your lake, choice of day etc. This method enables us to monitor the number of visitors and keep our anglers and staff safe during their time at Frant Lakes. To ensure our anglers' safety and to comply with Covid-19 social distancing measures, we have reduced the number of swims available from 75 to 25.

OUR two specimen lakes can be booked by calling the office number **01892 616424**. You must be over 18 and pay by card at the time of booking.

**ALL SWIMS MUST BE PRE-BOOKED.
PLEASE DO NOT TURN UP ON THE
DAY WITHOUT A BOOKING!**

Email: fishfrant@gmail.com

Visit www.frantlakes.com

and follow us on Facebook



Tricklebrook Fishery

Five Oak Green, Kent

Our new lake (pictured right) and facilities are now open!

Tel: **07743 955812** to book and for further information.

Here's a sample of recent catches here at Tricklebrook Fishery!



Marcus 26 lbs - New Lake



Jason



Jason



Jason



New lake capture!



Jason



Junior fun on match lake



An enjoyable day!



Charlie Young - Big eel!



Charlie Young and big grass carp



Great fun!



Joseph 18lbs



Joseph 24lbs



Marcus 26lbs - New Lake



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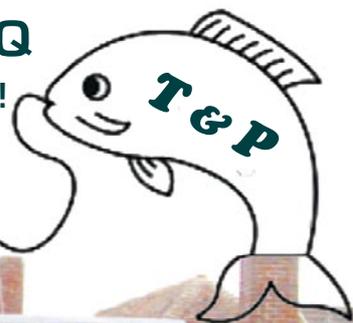


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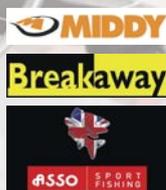
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Since reopening, Wylands have had to put provisions in place to ensure the safety of the staff and anglers on site. Therefore, we are limiting the amount of anglers on our complex at any one time and ask all anglers to pre-book in advance via phone on the above phone number. We are working on an online booking system that should become active in the near future.

We have had to remove all bins from our site and ask anglers to take all their rubbish home with them.

The catch reports across the complex have been outstanding!



19lbs 12ozs



House Lake common

New Specimen Lake has been handing out several PB's to multiple delighted anglers.

House Lake is performing well, as it always does, with fish being landed up to 20lb plus.

Snake Lake Our designated match water, has been very popular with our day anglers with up to 30 carp being caught in one short session.



Brady 21lb - Kell Lake



Gavin White 32lb - Kell Lake



Darren Killick



Kyle



Dave



Bryann Collins 25lbs

Kell Lake has produced carp up to 38lb, although this tricky water can be very rewarding.

Snipe Lake With the children off school our dads and lads lake is a great water to keep the kids entertained. Under 12` s can fish all day for just £5.

Old Specimen Lake is producing many double figure fish with all methods of fishing working well.

Rosie's Lake is very active, with anglers landing plenty of carp, bream and crucians throughout their sessions.

Middle Lake



Dave Honeysett - Middle Lake



Ashley Reeves 36lb - Kell Lake



Mr Crawford

Maisies Lake With recent hot temperatures, surface fishing has been very popular across the complex and is a great way to bank a few fish!



Dave Honeysett - Maisies Lake

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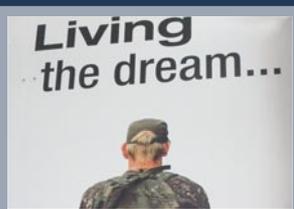
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Gabriels Fishery Edenbridge, Kent

Gabriels Fishery re-opened on Tuesday 16th June after lockdown period of the Coronavirus. With sanitizer spray in place at the tackle shop, toilets and showers. Our serene woodland setting is immaculate and complete with a chorus of song birds. The sun has brought out the water lilies and dragon flies that sit on the end of the rod. Welcome back!

There were a lot of anglers which put pressure on the lakes. Most people caught fish.

Dan Hayne and his friend caught 25 carp in the first 2 days between them. These fish were all between 10lbs and 23lbs on **Oak Lake**. The catch list included a 22.3lbs grass carp, a beautiful fully scaled mirror carp and two 20lbs common carp that came out at the same time. They were immaculate fish, not a mark on them.



During our first week, **Admiral Lake** has seen a 36lb mirror caught by **Brian Davies** on scopex and squid boilies.

Ian Woudby said that it was great to be back fishing; he relaxed on the bank under the trees of Oak Lake with the reflection of the rushes and leaves of the bushes on the water, which was in turn, only disturbed by the swirl and splash of water. For 4 days he quietly caught many fish including a beautiful scaled mirror carp. **Dean** came with his family, blonde hair **Freddie** aged 6 years his elder brother **Jack** aged 7 years and Dean's brother **Carl**.

Billy Graham fished **Silver Lake** with scopex and landed some beautiful fish including golden carp. His girlfriend **Ashleigh** caught her first fish ever, a stunning silver bream. They landed seven fish in all and Silver Lake is now their definite favourite water.

As the heat of the day slowed the fishing on the lakes at midday so the **River Eden** showed off its best. An afternoon and evening brought in a bag of 25 one pound plus roach an eight pound common carp, Rudd a rainbow trout and seven large chub. Two of these were over seven pounds each.

The following day a report of two eels were caught in the weir pool together with some very nice perch of three pounds. all of these were caught on worms supplied from the 24 hour vending bait machine at the fishery.



Fantastic trio for Chris!

Chris Cogan had these three lovely fish from his club water fish, a 21lb 8oz mirror, 20lb mirror and a fantastic looking 28lb common.



Mousehole Lakes Paddock Wood, Kent

...check out the full Mousehole Lakes advert on the inside back page





Life after lockdown by Andy Lush

What an astonishing time it's been! This dreadful epidemic has had tragic consequences that none of us have ever experienced before, unless you're old enough to remember the last war. Will we ever recover? The answer has to be yes and let's hope that the time we've had to reflect on what went before might change how we act in the future.

One of the few positives from the 'lockdown' is having time to reconnect with our loved ones without the distractions of everyday life. The stillness and tranquillity we've experienced, very few cars on the road and almost no planes has eliminated the majority of noise pollution. I can't say I've missed the noise at all; in fact the peace and solitude are things that we anglers often take for granted!

Freedom!

After what seemed like a lifetime, we were thankfully set free, thanks to the sterling work of the Angling Trust, I salute you all. I've ventured out several times in the first few weeks, sometimes after trout while at other times I've chased carp on the fly. It's been very busy wherever I've been which is very encouraging for our hobby, the fisheries and the tackle shops. It seems that with so much time on our hands, a lot of lapsed anglers have re-discovered their love of fishing, let's hope they stick with it. I've also noticed a lot of kids being given the chance to have some "real life" experiences, outdoors and with their parents. This bodes well for our hobby as fishing desperately needs young bloods to join our ranks; they are the future of our sport. We should all make them very welcome and encourage them at every opportunity.

We're back and we've gone digital!

This is the start of the "new normal" as we come out of the current coronavirus crisis. We're all going to see a lot of changes in the future, the way we work, the way we shop and where we holiday! Things we've previously taken for granted will have to change, some we'll embrace and others we'll just have to get used to. Having had time to reflect and take stock of things, Barry Reed has changed direction to grow and improve The Freshwater Informer. There will no longer be a free paper copy of our favourite monthly magazine. There is however this free improved digital version. Barry is adamant that he wants to keep the familiar sections we all like and love so much. So no changes there, but, what you will have noticed is a much easier to read digital version. Previously, the on-line Freshwater Informer was rather 'clunky' and difficult to read having been designed with printing technology in mind.

Barry assures me the Freshwater Informer will benefit from being designed specifically in a bespoke digital format. You should find it much clearer and easier to read with the picture quality improved too. 'Old farts' like me will have to learn a new way of enjoying our favourite read; I'll miss the old paper version, but will still look forward to reading the next issue.

There are a few serious benefits of going digital. The readership will grow substantially as anglers across the country will now be able to see what they've been missing! No longer will Barry have to physically deliver all those bundles of papers to tackle shops and fisheries across the South East. It used to take him six days each month, just think of the reduction in his carbon footprint! I expect a few trees will be spared too! On a serious note, I do hope this extra time will give Barry the time to conjure up some new writers who can add a tale or two on a regular basis and share their passion for our sport."

It's funny how the future looks so much brighter now we're all fishing again!



Brothers Bobby and George Baldock really enjoy going fishing

Tight lines. Andy Lush

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Night fishing: Only by prior booking.

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

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Alex tames a beast!

Alex French landed this monster catfish of 84lbs at the Darenth complex in North West Kent. After an epic battle in the early hours of the morning, which saw this huge fish almost empty the spool of line, Alex finally landed this specimen fish! **Top angling Alex!**



Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hawkhurst, Kent



30lb 4oz Mirror - Main Lake - Mark Goodhew



29lb 12oz Common - Dove Lake - Adam Wadey



31lb Common - Specimen Lake - Rob Pizzy



33lb 4oz Common - Specimen Lake - James Herbert



33lb 8oz Ghostie - Specimen Lake - Luke Williams



34lb Mirror - Specimen Lake - Ricky Young



Quarry Lake - Simon Hood



Quarry Lake - Tommy



Quarry Lake - Ron



28lb 6oz Catfish
Quarry Lake - Philip Joseph



Dove Lake - Jupp



Quarry Lake - Martyn Hopkins



38lb 8oz Common - Specimen Lake - Ricky Young



54lb Catfish - Dove Lake - Andrew Carter



65lb 6oz Catfish - Specimen Lake - Luke Williams



31lb Mirror - Specimen Lake - Dave Graveling



Specimen Lake - Tom Marshall



Quarry Lake - Simon Hood

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A welcome return for Matthew!

Matthew Georgiades sent in this report after a great session at Swanborough Lakes:

"I had an amazing well earned few days on the bank. It has been 10 months since my last session and although I was a bit rusty, boy did I make up for it! A total of 18 lovely carp, including two over 20lbs, lots of high doubles and my lad Blake had a couple of stunners. I also had a 5.30am wake up call from an angry pike! It was a great way to start my lengthy delayed season."



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Extra rod £3

SPECIMEN LAKE 2 3.5 acres

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

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

24 hour ticket: £25.00 Night ticket: £20.00

Species present in our lakes

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- Ghost Carp 36lb+
- Grass Carp 32lb+
- Catfish 80lb+
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2 BEDROOM - SLEEPS 5

3 BEDROOM - SLEEPS 6



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Mixed bag for Andrew!

Andrew Osborne recently joined C.D.A.A. (Canterbury and District Angling Association) and headed over to Minster lakes where he fished on Jade lake. Andrew had a great day's fishing with some nice tench and then some hard fighting carp in Brook lake. He sent in a few photos of his day's fishing.





WELCOME TO ARUN ANGLING CENTRE

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

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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!**



Alex French 84lbs Darenth



Andy Kemp Wylands



Ben Wright 43lbs Sussex Pit



Billy Sutton 12lbs 10ozs
Kent Club Water



Brad Avery 27lbs Lake 12
Orchard Place Farm



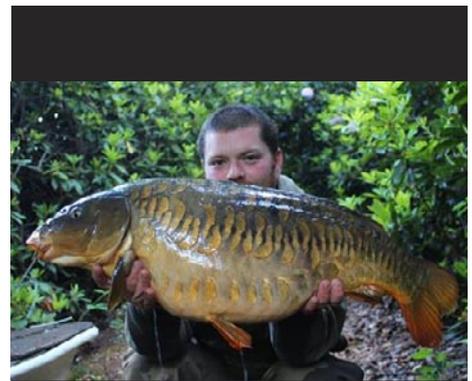
Callum Everest 34lbs
Menards Fishery



Matthew Georgiades
Swanborough Lakes



Michael Whitney 43lbs 10ozs
Yateley Pads Lake



Michael Whitney
Members Water Sussex



Neil Willis 30lbs Elphicks



Paul Davlo 23lbs
Coomewood Fishery



Paul Willis 20lbs Elphicks



Paul Willis at Iden Wood



Paul Willis Wallers Haven



Roy Brett 28lbs Lovelace Farm



Russell Scrace
Kingscote Estate Lakes



Scott Cook 38lbs Elphicks



Shaun Bayes 31lbs Cackle Hill



Chris 33lbs Elphicks



Colin Pullen



Darren Rawlings Elphicks



Jack Holden 23lbs
Hartley Lands



Jack Wood 31lbs
Falkenvil Fishery



Jake Trapp 23lbs 6ozs
Club Water



Jake Trapp 31lbs
Coombewood Fishery



James Atfield 19lbs



James Atfield 25lbs Club Water



Ken Kullman 27lbs Elphicks



Leo 67lbs Cackle Hill



Luke Taylor 21lbs
Falkenvil Fishery



Simon McArthur 21lbs
Kent Water



Simon Mitchell
Tricklebrook Main Lake



Stephenie Byrne 27lbs Darent



Terry Donovan 15lbs Loggies



Warren Atkinson 30lbs
Kent Water



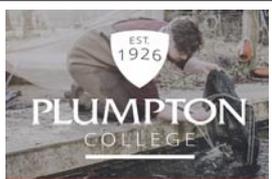
Dean Creasey 1lb 15ozs

Monster Pittlands catfish for Tom Bowler!

Allan Oakeshott, who runs Pittlands Angling Club at Horsmonden, has been in touch to tell us about this monster catfish of 52 lbs caught by **Tom Bowler** from Lake B on the complex.

Allan said: "Tom is one happy man with this big cat caught on his short 3 lb test curve rod and our secret meat feed bait. He had a double take, the first was a 20 lbs ish carp, but, that was returned in order to land this beast in the dark. Tom received a bonus pack of goodies of bait and the Pittlands cap for his capture. Now he is after the bigger ones! Well done."





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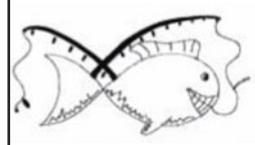
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Thank you to our Junior Informer Sponsors

Hello and welcome to the July edition of Junior Informer!

It is good to be back with you once again! It seems like ages ago since our last Junior Informer section and so much has happened in that time. You will all be aware that the Coronavirus has caused so much disruption throughout not just this country, but, the whole world. Due to the virus, the fisheries and tackle shops were forced to close for a long period of time. The printing company who produced the magazine also had to shut meaning we were unable to create the magazine. During the last few months, I have had to look closely at how the magazine is produced and the cost. It is a very expensive process to print thousands of magazines and then deliver them to all the tackle shops and fisheries in the South East of England. Due to the high cost, I have decided to produce the magazine only as a digital / online publication which would make it much more affordable for me every month. The magazine is still FREE for you to download and read and I still want you all to keep sending me your catch photos, news and reports, so very little has really changed, apart from the fact that there will be no more paper copies. However, as we are not printing magazines on paper anymore, it will save 15 tonnes of paper every year, so this is a much more environmentally friendly way of bringing you the Freshwater Informer each month. It also means I won't be driving thousands of miles each year delivering, so another way of helping our planet reduce pollution and cut greenhouse gases. I know many of you enjoyed seeing your photo in the magazine, but there is nothing to stop you printing pages from the website and keeping those.

Don't forget, keep sending me your catch photos and keep an eye on our Facebook page for lots more fishy stories!



Very special thanks to all the magazine subscribers who kindly donated their subscription refunds to the Junior Informer section!

Success for Sam!

Warren White who runs Coaching Coarse Fishing and works with the Fishing For Schools programme, is delighted with the success of **Sam Weedon**, one of the students.

Warren said: " Since the Coronavirus, we have had to find a different way of working and delivering our programmes and this has been achieved with 'home learning'. I have done another level of the Cast Awards with Sam and he is now up to Level 3. This will be useful to him in the future because any angler who wants to become a coach will require the Cast Award Level 3 in order to do the Level One Coaching Badge. The course now runs up to Level 6 with Levels 4 – 6 having only recently been introduced



Above - Sam with a fine 28lbs carp that he caught in France!

Cast Starter	Cast Level One	Cast Level Two	Cast Level Three
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attending a fishing event Watching someone cast Helping to net a fish Naming two different fish you have seen Naming two different types of bait you have seen used Knowing how to keep safe when near water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assembling rod, reel or pole Identifying health and safety issues and hazards Countryside Code Identifying potential areas to fish Recognising bites Playing and landing fish (using a net) Unhooking fish (lip hooking, disgorging) Holding and handling fish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selecting correct line and understanding how to attach terminal tackle Choosing the method of fishing Matching the methods to species of fish, their habitat and the conditions Choosing equipment suitable for the venue Casting accurately to the given target Demonstrating correct casting technique Tying knots - three simple knots that relate to chosen method of fishing Learning about bait, lures and flies Understanding weather and water conditions suitable for good fishing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeting specific species of fish and using specific tactics Selecting and preparing bait or tying flies Using suitable rigs for bait presentation or droppers for flies Tying own rigs or making flies Looking at fish habitats in relation to seasons, spawning or tides Learning about fish holding areas Demonstrating three different fishing techniques for the chosen discipline

I have had another ex-school student get in touch about doing this course and have some more in the pipeline with other schools, so this enterprise is becoming quite popular now! Although fishing is taking place once again, many students have still not returned to school and have found the 'lockdown' a struggle.

Warren White

Great start to the season for Jenson!

Happy dad, Tom Adams, sent in this report after a great day's fishing that he enjoyed with son **Jenson** on Opening Day:

"Jenson and I were out on opening day and caught ourselves a few chub on a short roving session. The photo here is Jenson with his two best from the day. We caught one after another and while we were resting one in the net, he was away playing another! A great day's fishing!"



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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!

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!



- Each 'Ready, Steady, Fish' pack contains: 400g of shelf life Squabs • 3 x medium swivel Stonze weights of 2-2.5ozs
- 3 x Gripz hair rigs (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



Blake Georgiades
Swanborough Lakes



Charley Milton 14 lbs 8 ozs
Chequertree New PB



Charlie Venables 21lbs
Lovelace Farm



Eva Martin



Finley's first ever fish
at Frant Lakes



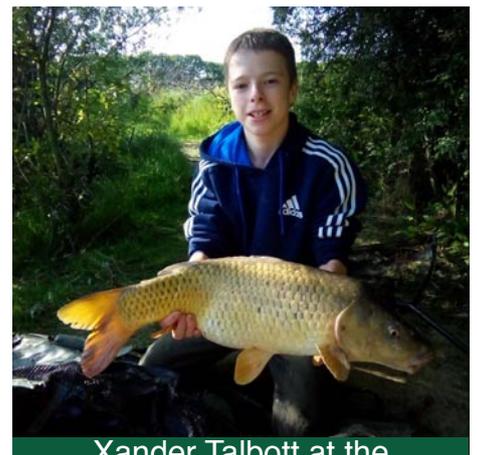
Franky Webb 51lbs Darenth



Jack Howe 30lbs New PB



Joseph Talbott at the
Mushroom Farm



Xander Talbott at the
Mushroom Farm



Louie Gowrley
at Claygate Lakes



Molly Talbott
at the Mushroom Farm



Rossi Hall 20lbs
Hawkhurst Fish Farm



Vinnie Goodayle
Claygate Lakes



Keanen and Kyra at Radnor Pond

Lovely mullet for Morgan!

Jon Vaughan who runs Fisherman's Corner at Ramsgate told us about a great mullet that his son **Morgan** caught from a Thanet shore mark.

Jon said: "I take absolutely no credit for the fish, I am just holding it for Morgan. Although I netted it for him, the hard work he done all by himself! He fished with a feeder rod, 4lbs bs line and a 4lbs bs fluoro carbon hook link with a size 12 Kamasan Animal hook. He spotted the fish and targeted it alongside his onion sack of bread. I reckon this fish was around 5lbs, but he also lost another around 3lbs."

Top angling Morgan!



Monster Tricklebrook eel for Charlie!

Andy Halford, who runs Kent's popular Tricklebrook Fishery at Five Oak Green, sent in this great catch photo of **Charlie Young** with a monster eel caught at the fishery.



Charlie was fishing with a Tutti Fruity boilie which this huge eel took a fancy to!

Early start for Owen



Shaun Croft sent in this report of an early morning session he had with son **Owen**:

"I took my son Owen out at 4.30am this morning to a local club water and an hour later he had this lovely tench of 5lb 2oz... !"

Shaun told us that Owen hooked, played and landed this lovely tench all on his own.

Top angling Owen, well done!

Happy days for the Bakers!

Gemma Baker and her dad Mark had a couple of hours on a local pond and were rewarded with these fine fish. Happy days indeed for this family fishing duo!



Fishing 4 Schools – July Tip of the Month

from instructor Rob Goble

Firstly, I hope everyone is fit and well. From my own perspective it is so good to be back chatting with you all - even if it is via online and not 'hard' copy.

As we all now know, mid March came in with a "roar" and fishing, like so much of our life, had to stop as Coronavirus took it's hold. All of us - like it or not, had to take onboard the government guidelines with, as we know, only being allowed to shop, cycle or walk for exercise. This horrible virus has taken many lives and shattered families whilst many suffered this disease and it has changed life as we know it hugely. We are still not out of the woods yet! Adopting the Government mantra to: "Stay alert, Control the virus, Save lives." Most of us have, sensibly, abided by this code.



As time has gone on, restrictions have eased and allowed us to travel - and thankfully fish again. What a relief for we anglers; all of us chomping at the bit to get out after, seemingly, a lifetime without fishing - well, it seemed that way! During the height of 'lockdown', life seemed surreal - quiet roads, no aircraft flying overhead, and little activity from people where I live. I suspect it was the same for you. In fact, it reminded of a film of many years ago, "The day the Earth stood still."

It also reminded me, of coarse fishing in years gone by; when there was an actual "blanket" close season (March 15th - June 16th) - of course this now only applies to rivers - but rather ironically this virus seemed to coincide with this time period; but not so, if you happen to be a fly or salt

water angler. In those days, you would try your hand at fly fishing to fill in the months before going back to your usual discipline of coarse fishing.

We have, of course moved on, and the close season only remains on rivers as I have mentioned and some club owned waters. Most fisheries are now what we call 'commercials' and are open all year round (apart from being closed the last few months) so the frustration of not fishing through Covid restrictions was even more acutely felt.

The unfortunate thing with this virus was the timing. If, like me, you look forward to the start of fly fishing during March, opening on our rivers and lakes. The whole thing came to a juddering stop. Simply, it just was not allowed up and down the country: our rivers and lakes were closed. This was bad news, as it is, without doubt, one of our best times to catch a trout or salmon.



Tantalisingly, you were allowed to walk the river or around lakes and it was so frustrating to see, on my favoured haunts, fish feeding so heavily on Midge:, swirling and bulging, heading and tailing, "oh for a rod to be in my hand"; to make matters worse even the Hawthorn Fly (a gangly legged, black, land based insect that hovers around bushes and so loved by trout) made a good appearance in early May as well.

But when we eventually were allowed to fish, we still had time to make the best of it, that was... before the early heatwave arrived.

My Top Tip here, for this time of the year, is to try to fish early or late in the day for the best chance to catch your quarry; of course you still could be lucky, if you have a cool overcast day - we anglers are born optimists!

Also, because of 'Lockdown' and no schools being open, I had to do something. Normally, I would be in full swing coaching with my Fishing for Schools colleagues; sadly, not the case. So I thought it would be useful to give some natural history "learning" for our students not attending school, but learning via the internet. So I decided to do some articles based on the sea shore and what to find there.

As I live on the North Kent coast and very close to the sea, I thought I would set an "online" student (and their families!) project based on the various creatures that inhabit the shoreline and to be found at low water/tide and although I knew most of what lived there, I realised that when taking photos and a little research (I am still learning myself!), I began to understand far more about this fascinating subject, and hopefully the students did as well. I would recommend you try it, it's quite amazing what you could discover.

If you do go on a seashore discovery session, please be mindful and respect the creatures that live there. They are a very important part of our ecosystem; if you turn a rock to look underneath, please return as you found it. If you do not, the seaweed that might be growing on top is - or could be, underneath, will eventually die: as will the creatures that might be lodged in that seaweed which, suddenly, may be exposed to the elements. As I say, this is a very delicate ecosystem that needs looking after.

As well as looking under rocks, I have also been finding out about the plants that live along the shoreline and neighbouring areas: there is a vast array of plants, and the ones which I discovered, recorded and took photos of, is barely scratching the surface. During this 'Lockdown' period it has been absorbing and a wondrous journey of things I simply took for granted, and as we, hopefully, come back to some normality, I hope, like me, you will have a better understanding of our precious environment, especially our lakes and rivers.

So next time you are fishing, please, take a deep breath, observe what's around you, enjoy the moment that's there for us and our natural pleasure. Never have we needed this tranquility to heal and help our mental wellbeing; that is so important.

Listening to the multitude of bird life, witnessing the damselfly in its glorious blue colour hovering on, or over, your rod tip; a bee passing you, humming along to its next meal, the rustle of the trees as the breeze sets in, and yes the magic and mystery of the water in front of you, and what lies beneath. Fishing for me is so much more; I hope to you as well. It is not always about catching: it is about being at one with nature.

One important tip, though!

Please support your local tackle store and fisheries when they all fully open. There has never been a time when they have needed you more. On the plus side. The Environment Agency has recorded a huge increase in rod licence sales. This can only be good for our sport. It only proves that angling is a very much needed requirement for health and mental wellbeing!

Enjoy your fishing - what ever your discipline, stay safe and have fun! *Best wishes, Bob G.*





Fishing for Schools

July Update

An update for a changing world from Charles Jardine

"Fishing for Schools was not ever going to let a small matter of a global pandemic get in the way of its philosophy of bringing angling and education together to help, enthuse and get young people fishing. We just had to change this a little.

There is no question that the last few weeks and months have been a challenge for all of us - fussers we couldn't fish now we have to adjust to both social distancing (well we fishers have been doing that for generations!) and complying with vital requirements and strictures. That said, we have at least been able to go fishing.

But F4S things have been very different. At a time that should historically be our busiest, we have come to a halt - in the accepted sense, but we have always relished a challenge.

With Kent being perhaps, our "flagship county", and where we have, arguably, the finest coaches in the game. This dedicated cohort have really set to work, seized the moment and have seen opportunities and driven Fishing for Schools into new areas of delivery and interest. Subjects whilst angling related, that could involve the entire family unit. Who would have thought Bob Goble would be seen as the angling beachcomber...but he is. Or Warren White as techno wizard teaching Cast Awards over the internet! Sheer commitment and genius.

Much of this new approach can be seen on our brand new website and blog -

Our commitment is total - both to the young people and the sport which we love. This will never change. All we need to do is rise (like a very enthusiastic trout) to the challenge.

We have some amazingly innovative things planned for the coming months ahead - elements which I am both proud to be director of and areas that will involve the angling community in a celebration of the sport, the current hunger to participate and the rightful climb back to the place it should have been all along - the nations favourite participatory sport.

Covid-19? A problem for some - and a deadly one... but for Fishing for Schools? A real opportunity to look to the future and bring angling into areas it has never been before."

Best wishes, Charles Jardine

Good morning's fishing for Harry!

Harry Metcalfe went to Oakley Road Fishery at Bromley for a morning's fishing session and was chuffed to catch a common carp, mirror and a rudd - it made his day. The fish were caught on float fished pellet.



River Informer

Welcome to the River Informer and a new season!

The 'Glorious 16th' arrived along with beautiful weather! Our waterways looked wonderful with their Summer growth decorating the banks. Although rainfall has been extremely low since the Spring, water levels were reasonable and the start of the season was welcomed by so many eager to get back on to running water. Due to many anglers still off work due to the furlough scheme, good numbers made the most of their time and enjoyed some good fishing on the rivers. Many welcomed the move from stillwater venues and a lot of anglers have been in touch to say they have returned to river fishing after an absence of many years!

Medway carp for Cameron!

Cameron Dunbar enjoyed a session on the Medway and was rewarded with this fine looking river carp. "I wasted no time getting down the river on opening day and my efforts were rewarded with this pristine common. Certainly not the biggest fish I've caught, but every fish means so much more to me from the rivers."

Top angling Cameron, lovely looking fish and one to be rightly proud of!



PB Medway chub for Matthew on Opening Day!

Matthew Colegate was very well rewarded after a short session on the 'Glorious 16th':

"I had a few hours fishing after work on opening day and I fished my local stretch of the Medway and it produced a new personal best chub of 5lb for me. Got to love that magical 16th June!"



Bankside on the Sussex Ouse

by Colin Etherington

Summer on the Ouse

When the rivers closed in March, I'd personally had a cracking winter targeting barbel on the upper reaches of the Sussex Ouse. I've found over the last few years that my winter fishing has been more productive than during the warmer summer months, not necessarily in volumes of fish caught, but I've found the bigger double figure specimens certainly aren't shy in picking up a bait no matter what the conditions are.

I was quite surprised that during some of the floods we experienced, I still managed to catch fish and big fish at that. It was then in January when I decided to do a short evening session, the weather had been relatively mild and I thought with the river running very coloured it looked good for a fish. When I finished work, I headed to my chosen swim and found it already taken and I thought someone else was on the same wave length. So, back in the car and I headed to my second option and finally trudged across the field before darkness set in. I decided to only fish one rod, albeit my ticket allowed two, I've found that on these short sessions I can fish more effectively with one rod rather than doubling up with two. I like to use a big feeder rammed with hemp, pellet and chopped worm, whilst my hook bait is either lobs or a quality hook pellet. Suddenly, just as the light started to fade, my rod smashed over and I bent into a very lively fish. The river was pushing through and I suddenly glimpsed a carp as it ran me ragged up and down the river. I finally netted my first Sussex Ouse carp! I had often wondered when a carp would pick up my baits and was delighted to see this one in the net. I reflected on this capture during the closed season and decided that I wanted to catch more carp from the Sussex Ouse. I love my barbel fishing but felt I could combine the two.

"My first ever carp caught from the Sussex Ouse - in my opinion it was simply a matter of when not if!"

So, during the closed season I walked and walked the upper reaches of the Sussex Ouse in the hope of locating some of its nomadic carp. To be honest, I struggled to find them although I did watch some big barbel spawning on the gravel runs. With the new season approaching fast, it was time to get my tackle back into order. I needed some new bits and pieces and I always favour supporting our local shops. I visited Harry and Ricky at Bodle Angling on the outskirts of Burgess Hill, they are both great guys that know their tackle and I replaced my line and stocked up on hooks, leads and feeders. I'm a Team Member of 3FT Twitch Specialist Baits and when my pre season bait order arrived, I was really keen, almost like a coiled spring waiting for the magnificent and glorious June 16th!

On the 15th of June I decided to plot up in my chosen swim, an overnight umbrella system did the trick and I awoke at 4 am bank side. I put the kettle on and smiled and smiled, the river looked lovely and the forecast was ideal. Seeing as I was here for the day, I opted for two rods, both fished with 2 ft hook lengths and big feeders rammed with 3FT Twitch pellet and hemp. This particular stretch isn't very wide so I was also able to under arm throw several balls of the ground bait straight into my swim. I like to try and get the fish searching about for food which in turn tricks them into picking up my hook bait.



"Quality bait in my opinion is essential, I like to mould paste around my pellet and to introduce several balls of ground bait that are laced with pellet and hemp"

Once I had brewed my coffee, I sat back and watched my tips against the most perfect of back drops. Both rods were getting knocks from the off, but nothing was remotely 'strikeable' until my left rod burst into life and slammed round. I was in and instantly thought I had a barbel on! the fish was kiting to the left before dogged runs to the right. I was quite nervous and surprisingly shaking which only got worse when I saw it was in fact not a barbel, but a carp. After a very spirited fight, I managed to slip the fish into my net. My season was up and running and I'd caught my second Sussex Ouse carp.



"I was delighted that my first cast of the season resulted in my second Sussex Ouse carp - a lovely mirror with lovely scale patterns."

I re baited and cast out again and as always after landing a fish, I like to reintroduce more compacted balls of feed. Normally they average the size of a tennis ball and the aim is draw fish into the swim and to get them feeding confidently. Quite often on the Sussex Ouse, your swim might die for a while after the commotion of netting a fish, but strangely today, I carried on catching a succession of really nice chub that followed. The chub bites were very aggressive and couple of times I initially thought that it could have been an elusive river barbel. During the course of the day, I managed five, including one just shy of 4lbs that I'd caught two years previously. In my opinion, it's incredible that this fish is still in the same swim after severe floods that I'd have thought would have moved it downstream.



"Catching chub of this stamp and quality from such a small river is a delightful bonus to your day! They are more welcome to make an appearance and often save the day!"

Then things went quiet until midday. I'd certainly had a good morning in my opinion. Both my baits had been out about an hour and I was considering resting the swim whilst I had lunch and took a wander fish spotting. I noticed a couple of knocks



on my right hand rod, they weren't 'strikeable', but it certainly caught my attention. Then as quite often happens on the river, the tip hooped over and I was into another fish which once again fought hard in the current and I questioned again as to whether I'd hooked a barbel. "No", I thought it's another carp that was similar to the first and again this carp also had lovely scale patterns.

"It then became apparent that it was the same fish I'd caught earlier! I'd had a repeat capture of a carp in the same day from the Sussex Ouse! How bizarre I thought!"

I'd taken the selfies and was sat in my chair looking at the pics with the rod still wound in deciding on whether the fish had rested enough before being released. From the corner of my eye, I noticed the other rod tip suddenly ping backwards. I tightened back to the feeder with the spool and had the rod wrenched from my hand with another take! Now, this fish certainly fought harder, it stayed deep circling in front of me and made several runs both upstream and downstream. I was totally convinced this was a barbel and yeah I would have put money on it. The fish started to tire and I decided to bring the fish up through the water. I was shocked to see another carp that was somewhat bigger than the previous one!



"My day was just getting better and better, it was the 16th June, the opening day of the season and I was catching some lovely fish."

As we went into the afternoon, the bites dried up again and I sat pondering over the morning's events, where had these carp come from? I wasn't complaining either as they fought fantastically well and looked very healthy. I'd already decided that this season I'd like to target them with a more serious approach, so, having caught two different mirrors this morning I wasn't moaning. It's my opinion that during the winter floods these fish escaped from local ponds and

made their way into the Sussex Ouse. During the day, I also got to meet some of the club's juniors, Archie, George, Jacob and Tristan. I was really glad to see how keen they were to learn and how polite and well mannered they were. These young lads are the future of angling, it is so nice to be involved with a club that welcomes juniors. I think the highlight of the day was my wife and children popping by to drop off some pop and a sandwich. My son said: "Catch one Dad" and as if by magic the rod tip pulled down and I was into a nice spirited chub.



"I don't think a day goes by without my son asking me to take him fishing. To say he's keen is an understatement, youngsters are the future of fishing and should be encouraged! I'd much sooner see my boy down the pond or river rather than sat on the sofa with a iPhone playing a computer game! The outdoors is a wonderful place to be."

On reflection my opening day had been wonderful, I'd caught fish and made new friends. I'd met another angler on social media and we agreed to have a few sessions on the Ouse together, Henry finished off the evening and managed a couple of chub. I'm looking forward to doing some more sessions with Henry and certainly meeting up with the juniors again. I hadn't caught a barbel yet so decided to return back to the river a couple of days later. I felt a change of swim was needed, but, also decided to stay on the upper reaches. The Haywards Heath and District Angling Society ticket is absolute value for money, it offers everything I need and a bit more.

I got to the river for 4am and although the river was very low it was also running with a bit of colour. Ideal in my opinion, the morning was forecast to be showers and overcast with a low pressure area moving in. Fishing with only one rod, which I don't dislike as quite often I manage to fish more effectively and better, my bait was cast out as soon as I could see clear enough. I fed several tennis size balls of ground bait and used my preferred big feeder rammed with hemp, pellet and 5ml of glug in the mix. It didn't take long to get two lovely clean river bream in the net!

"These bream are really clean and fight considerably well, with the right tackle they give a great account of themselves.

I'm certainly trying for a double figure river bream this season."

I had decided to pack up at 11am, but, I still hadn't had my barbel so decided on extending the trip by an hour. A quick call to the wife and I got the 'boss's' permission and I recast, this went very well. The feeder and bait landed perfectly, it couldn't have been done better with a bait boat. I was sure I was on the money. I sat patiently and swigged the last couple of mouthfuls of coffee from my flask. Without any warning the tip smashed over and I grabbed the rod and gave it some serious side strain, the fish turned into the main

current and I sighed a relief. After a couple of powerful runs there was no mistake that this WAS a barbel! I'd forgotten the power these fish pack, pound for pound the "Prince of the River" and it gets my vote. On the first attempt with the river very low, I managed to slip the net under this absolute bar of gold.

"Not big by any standards, but in a small river barbel of this size certainly give you the run around. It is adrenalin pumping as you try on numerous occasions to turn them away from snags!"

Barbel are beautiful fish to catch but please remember that with the temperatures soaring and the rivers running low, please can everyone take responsibility for the welfare of barbel. Barbel need to be rested for at least 10 minutes after capture and their return.

They should be kept upright in a net with their heads directed into the flow. Only when you believe they are fully recovered should you contemplate returning them to the river.

I've had a fantastic start to the season and look forward to seeing what next month has to offer. I'm hoping that we can all get a bend in the rod and can search out those big specimen fish of all species. The sooner I can net a nice double figure barbel the sooner I can then start concentrating on some river carping. The Sussex Ouse offers some fantastic fishing, catch it right and you can net some specimen fish!"

Tight lines and please everyone abide by the Governments Guidelines and stay safe.



Colin Etherington



A good day on the canal for Shane!!

Top local sea angler **Shane Edwards** had a dabble on 'the dark side' recently when he swapped the beach for a session on the Royal Military Canal!

"I had a try at something a little different from the sea angling over the last week or so and had forgotten how relaxing it really was to be by the side of the canal again!"



First river carp for Kev!

Kev Finch sent this report in to us to tell us about his first carp from a Kent river:



"I was delighted to catch my first ever river carp and my first bronze bream during a 24 hours session on a local river mark."



Michael hits his target!

Michael Whitney spent opening day on the Basingstoke Canal and caught this fine looking koi which was a fish he had been targeting. He also went on to catch a fine looking mirror and was decidedly chuffed with the day's result!



Lovely Eden chub for Nick!

Nick Chilcott enjoyed the first day of the new season on the Eden and was very well rewarded: Nick said: "When we went into 'lockdown', I started to walk to my local river, the River Eden at Edenbridge, which I haven't fished for about 15 or 20 years. I was starting to get the 'bug' for a bit of river fishing again and I started to feed few spots. Opening day on the 16th June couldn't come fast enough for me! I went down to the river in the early morning and ended up getting this lovely chub of 7lbs 6ozs."



Great start for Tracey!

Tracey Haysom began her river fishing season on the River Mole and had a nice carp which she was rightly pleased with. Her husband Stu accompanied her and caught seven small chub. Happy days for both anglers!



The Golden Years of Coarse Fishing

by Bob Rolph

The Wagstaff and Reynolds Story: From Triumph to Tragedy

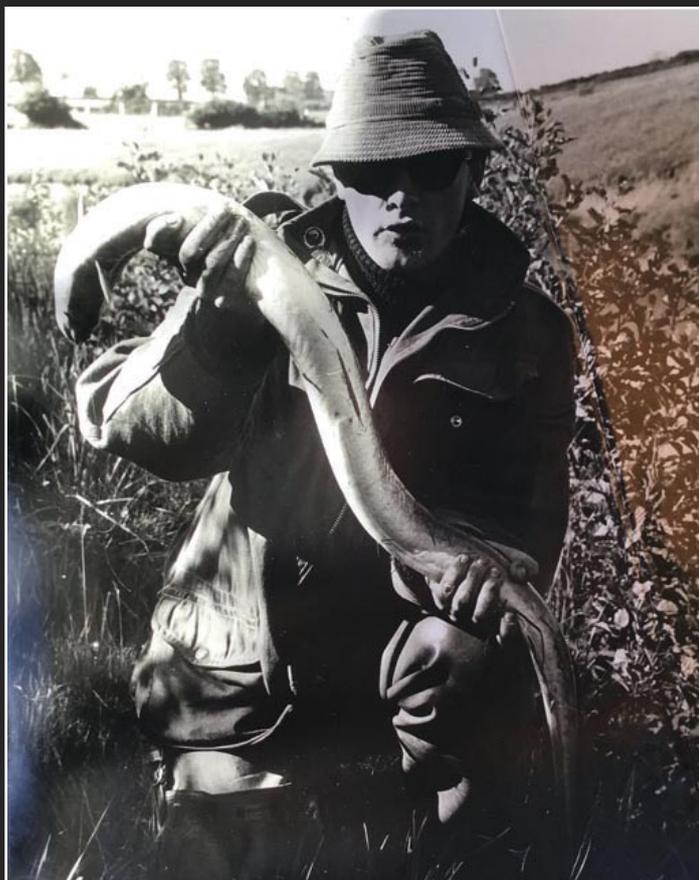
There can be few English anglers who can claim such universal acclaim in the 'History of Pike Fishing' and the 'History of Carp Fishing' as this legendary duo. Fred Wagstaff from Leicester and Bob Reynolds from Northampton dominated the big fish scene in the 60s and 70s with their epic catches and adventures. On their own, they were inspirational pike and carp anglers, going right back to August 1957, but together, fishing as a pair, they revolutionised lure fishing for big water pike and trolling for monster brown trout, both here in England and in Ireland.



Bob Reynolds 3 eel catch at Redmire, March 1967



Bob with a 4lbs 8ozs eel from the GUC in the mid 60s



My best eel from the canal at 5lbs 5ozs

I was privileged to have known and fished with them both, many times, not only for pike and carp, but for eels, tench and trout. It was their prowess with the eels of the Grand Union Canal that I first got to fish with them, fishing many long weekends on the banks of this productive water during the coarse fish close season of 1966 and 67 when fishing was allowed in the Spring, with dead baits, worms and meats. The annual expeditions of the old National Anguilla Club at Easter and Whitsun, provided an outlet for us all, before we all got hooked on Reservoir Trout fishing in the 1970s. We all had regular trips to the canal at Weedon and I enjoyed many a close season weekend there fishing with these master anglers. Many dozens of good eels up to 5 lb 5 ozs were caught those Spring nights before Grafham opened and we all turned to trout. I also fished just once for pike with Fred and once for carp with Bob, at lakes where they made their names; Sywell and Billing in Northamptonshire.

They were both characters, more than 10 years older than myself. Bob, the quiet sensible one and Fred the brash, loud, rough diamond from Leicester, but both with hearts of gold, and a



The front pages of Angling Times. The story of Bob Reynolds' amazing catches also appeared in the national newspapers creating a tremendous amount of interest in Billing. This publicity seriously backfired, so much so that Bob eventually gave up carp fishing at the lake for several years.

During these successive trips Bob had caught the 6th, 7th and 8th largest carp ever, and became the first person to have caught two 20lb. carp in a sitting—and he had achieved this twice! A few years later he had caught the country's 4th largest carp before turning his attention to pike fishing.

steely determination to succeed and be the best at anything they did. Big fish fishing, was their chosen sport and they sure hit the highs and the lows during their near 50 year reign. They became the first truly professional coarse fishermen, being paid a retainer by Angling Times to go out and catch big fish, then write about it in the weekly newspaper. After a spell in the RAF, Fred became obsessed with fishing, mainly for pike, roving with a spoon at the old reservoirs north of Northampton. At Sywell, it was not the legendary tench that Fred pursued, but pike up to 28 lbs in 1962, at a time when such large catches were rare. Bob Reynolds drifted from one unskilled job to another in his home town, working in a shoe shop and digging graves, before his love of carp fishing propelled him to untold heights in the August of 1957. Eventually, the pair were destined to meet on the "river bank", probably at Billing Aquadrome in the early 1960s, where their fishing skills were to be honed to a high degree on many an expedition both here and in Ireland.

I could easily have also been sucked into their world of fishing excess, I was invited! But, I also had a good job and had responsibilities at home, where I preferred my home comforts and a more sedate form of specimen hunting, rather than lengthy fishing expeditions away from my home county of Kent. I was not prepared, or able, to give it all up to become a full time fisherman, as they did! Jim Gibbinson tried it for a summer at Billing in 1967, during his teacher's holiday ,but failed with the carp (he wanted the record) and became exasperated with the slimy bream, which always got to his baits first, he told me, in several letters from the lake in the summer of 1967! Letters used to arrive each month from Wessex Way, Leicester and Balmoral Road, Northampton, telling me of their captures the previous month.

Billing, on the outskirts of Northampton, was a lake with untold monsters in its depths, rivalled only by Redmire Pool in the late 1950s. Bob Reynolds hit the headlines there in August 1957, when on one Saturday night he captured three carp of 24-12, 27-9 and 28-4, from his pitch on a small island, on bread flake. The young 24 year old angler had front page news in the Angling Times that week, then went on to repeat the feat the following Saturday, with fish of 26-10 and 27-9. The headline read " Bob Does It Again" and it was the very first Angling Times that I ever bought! All quite unheard of in those days, an achievement that made him a 'fishing legend' overnight! Four years later, on Saturday 6th August 1961, Bob again hit the headlines with a huge mirror of 33 lb 2 ozs, from the same isolated island swim, supposedly caught on banana flavoured bread paste, it wasn't, that was just to fool the locals who flocked to his swim. He was hardly able to fish it again!



Bob Reynolds at Redmire with Eels

I fished a night with him on this cramped island, but of course failed to even have a run! The following day it was back to his mothers place at Balmoral Road for lunch and a look through his album of impressive photographs. Bob really was the Jack Hilton of his era. Fred also wanted some of this action and fished several seasons at Billing with Phil Shatford, Jim and Bob, but could only manage one fish of 16 lbs. Bob Reynolds was eventually invited into the prestigious Carp Catchers Club, which only had 12 members, a decision which Dick Walker was not happy with. A 42 lb common was eventually caught at Billing by Ray Clay and remains to this day, the largest fish from this holiday camp venue.

In January 1966, the call of Winter carp saw us all descend on the "Electricity Cut" at Peterborough in the driving snow! We met up with local experts Dave Goodrum and Stan Hill, who showed us the ropes. Wagstaff, Gibbinson, Goodrum and my mate, young Graham Igglesden, all had glorious 20 lb + carp in the most atrocious of conditions. I, as per the norm, caught nothing to write home about, except a severe bout of the flu! We must all have been mad! We took Ken Rowley and Steve Edwards up there one week end, they were not impressed!

The Northampton specimen scene had four famous anglers living within streets of each other, Wessex Way, Balmoral Avenue, Perry Street and Derby Road. These streets housed Bob Church, Fred Wagstaff, Bob Reynolds and Phil Shatford and Jim Gibbinson was a visitor in 1967.



Fred and Graham Igglesden unload tackle from Fred's Robin Reliant



Fred with a 4lb eel from our canal days

Wagstaff and Reynolds were now a team to be reckoned with and started to plan ahead for future escapades. They first tried Redmire on the last weekend of the '66 season, but it was the pike that were to be their main challenge in years to come, the massive pike of the Thurne river system on the Norfolk Broads. Fred was a master exponent of fishing with a large plug or spoon and they developed this "spinning" technique to such an extent, that static dead baiting or live baits were a thing of the past. They investigated importing American plugs and lures, like Heddons, creekchub pikies, and all manner of surface crawlies that made a popping noise when retrieved at high speed.. Their catches on the Thurne and Horsey Mere were impressive, with dozens of 20 lb fish and hundreds of doubles, caught on the edge of reed beds, nearly all on plugs of one sort or another. Ken Latham's tackle shop and store in Potter Heigham started to import all these lures in big numbers, and Ron Blackmore and I went up there one weekend to buy up all his stock, or so it seemed! I still have hundreds of unused lures tucked away somewhere, some still in their original boxes. We used the Helin Flatfish at Bewl during the pike cull days of the 1980s with great effect. The 3 lb perch just loved the silver ones with the pink spots, and the double figure pike loved the huge creek chub and river runts in the brown trout pattern!

Fishing in Norfolk was not enough for our two intrepid lure anglers. Ireland beckoned next, with the wild expanses of Loch Mask, Corrib and Templehouse Lake in Co. Slygo. Fred had become an accomplished troller, practicing at Grafham and Rutland Water where in 1980 his 8 fish limit of 48lb 8 ozs of brown trout is still a record, I believe! The pair acquired a boat, a rickety 13 ft marine ply job, with a pair of

unreliable outboard motors, an 18 hp Johnson and a 5 hp Evinrude for trolling. This quite 'unseaworthy' craft was christened the "Black Pig" on the river Nene one weekend, and Janet Jackson of the Tenchfishers ran up a nice Jolly Roger flag for them! The Angling Times gave them an Avon rubber dinghy which they named "Piglet", from which they fished on the Thames weir pools to promote their series called "Footloose", which ran in the newspaper for several years, with the Angling Times logo emblazened on its side. I fished one weekend with them at Temple Weir, trying for barbel, but could only manage roach and chub. They eventually did the whole of the River Thames, reporting back their impressive catches to the weekly newspaper.

Ireland was their next challenge, first with Bill Keal, then Mike Muse from Melton Mowbray and a 'Yank' called Mike Prorock. Huge brown trout first succumbed to their lures on Lough Ree, Mask and Corrib. The late Bill Keal had fish of 16 lb 1 oz and 11 lbs on the same day, trolling with huge hand made copper spoons, and Fred had a fish of 13 lbs 7 ozs from Lough Mask in 1969. They thought nothing of trolling in 50 ft of water, lure depth slow and deep was the rule and this was also proved by me at Bewl and Bough Beech in later years. Early echo sounders helped their quests, and their tally of pike in Ireland was impressive, with dozens of 20 lb fish again, including a 2 day catch of 5 pike between 25 and 30 lbs. Fred never bettered his PB of a 30 lb 2 ozs specimen from Horsey Mere in Sept 1967, but the sheer numbers of their Irish Pike were unbelievable. They caught trout in the early mornings to sell to finance their expeditions! They never had full time jobs, just the monies from their writings in the Angling Press.

Following in the footsteps of the great Broadlands pike anglers of the 50s and 60s, Fred and Bob were inspired by the old angling legends like Jim Vincent, Denis Pye, Frank Wright, Derrek Amis, Peter Hancock and Bill Giles. The early 60s and 80s were magical times for the huge pike catches up there, and my contemporaries like Neville Fickling, Stephen Harper and Martyn Page continued in this vein until the Prynnesium algae took hold again. This toxic golden algae had twice decimated the pike stocks of the Norfolk Broads, but does it not affect the bream then, their main source of food? Bewl



'Piglet' on the Thames during their footloose series



Reynolds in the 'Black Pig' on Loch Corrib



The 'Black Pig' at full throttle



Fred with 3 x 20s from Castlehouse Lake in Co Sligo

Water and Brooklands Lake at Dartford had suffered from extensive blue/green algae in past seasons, but I had never heard of it affecting the fish stocks. An interesting discussion point for this magazine ,perhaps? The fool that I was, I never fished in Norfolk during this great era of 50 years ago, when the great roach, barbel and chub fishing on the Wensum and Waveney rivers was also at its peak. Wagstaff and Reynolds caught the end of the first Broads heyday in 1967 and 68, but another short lived golden period began in 1981, but I was not there to see it!

Eventually, even these huge pike catches were not enough for them, and they decided to take their boat to sea to try for shark, 4 miles off the Irish coast. They fished off Dungarven, County Waterford, catching blues up to 95 lbs, and then back home for 100 lb porbeagles from Dickie Downs boat off Beachy Head, using 15 inch long Red and White Creek Chub Pikie lures!

All this very intensive fishing took its toll on these two intrepid anglers and Fred gave it all up for 6 years on his return to England, taking up painting and suffering from depression and other problems, his marriage had broken up and he sadly took his own life in 2003 at the age of 64.

Bob Reynolds had a dramatic fall from grace. From a super carp hero in 1957 to convicted criminal serving 7 years in Mountjoy prison in Dublin from 1974 - 1981 for crimes that I will not go into here. It was a very sad end to the formerly nice man that I once knew. He too died about 10 years ago having been largely ostracised by the angling fraternity in Northampton that once knew and admired him.

The early 1970s were also a very sad time for the specimen hunting fraternity with the death of five key members in unrelated car accidents. Bill Keal, David Carl Forbes, Colin Underwood, Willie Parker and Peter Mead were all well known big fish anglers, they are all gone but not forgotten! Their writings live on in the pages of books and articles, hopefully to encourage the young anglers of today to emulate their epic catches and adventures!"

Bob Rolph

Medway Man by Bob Morris

I seem to have completely lost track of time this year, almost certainly because of this unusual springtime situation with the Covid 19 lockdown - or at least I hope that is the reason. I was on the phone to a customer (one of the few at that stage) who said that I must be going mad with all of the restrictions, and not being able to go out fishing? I was able to answer, perhaps surprisingly, that I was not worried at all about the lack of fishing and my concerns were of a much more basic nature - having had at least one case of the Coronavirus within the family and my immediate contacts.

Fortunately, we have all survived relatively unscathed and my feelings are with those who have lost members of their family and close friends. It does now seem that we are on our way to regaining some semblance of normality and I hope that things will continue in this vane.

My answer to the question however, also related to the fact that I have always been a great supporter of the closed season for coarse fishing, and recall that it was not that long ago by my reckoning that we all had to shelve our piscatorial activities for three months and keep ourselves occupied with long overdue household jobs and DIY of one sort or another. I must admit that I did cheat a bit by developing an interest in fly fishing and occasionally a beach fishing trip or two - although there were fish in the sea in those days.

Something else that has kept me going during these past months is my love of wildlife, and I was delighted when I heard that we would be allowed out for daily exercise. This enabled me to start walking in the local countryside again - although unfortunately without the company of my brother, due to the restrictions. Just a small rucksack containing my bins, wildlife reference book and some refreshments, were all that I needed.

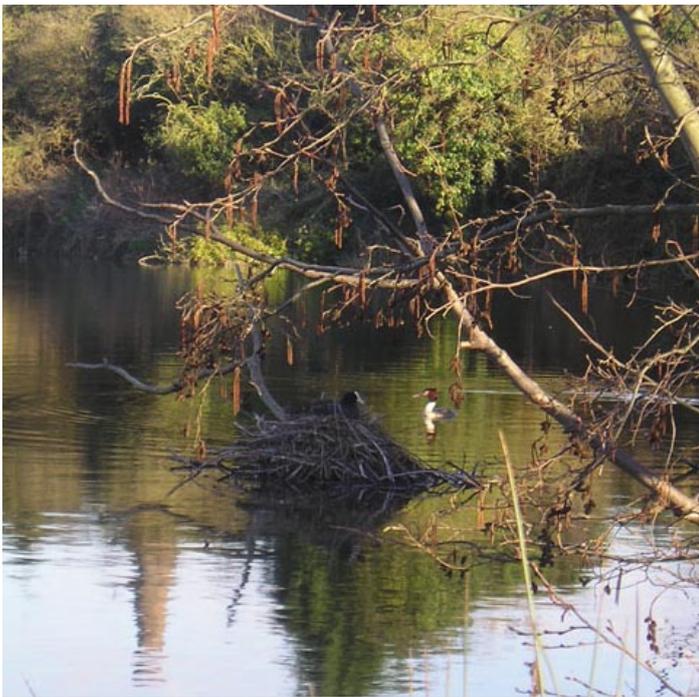
I was not disappointed with my experiences during these sorties - with sightings of birds and some great views of animal life - many that I suspect would not have occurred during normal times. I could write lot about what I saw during these, average eight mile, walks but instead would like to talk about what I did not see, smell or hear for that matter. For the first few weeks of the restrictions, at least, it felt, to me, like it must have done a century ago with no sounds from traffic on the busy North Kent motorways, no smell of polluted air from



Good for starters



A good brood



Coot and Grebe

vehicles on the country lanes and perhaps most significantly of all, no sight or sound of aircraft degrading the tranquility of the clear blue skies. It really was like a return to the old days that we have traded for the internal (infernally) combustion engine. The increased volume of bird song, (now almost lost in some areas) and the sweet countryside smells of the North downs, really made me feel quite emotional.

Another thing that my customer said was that he could not wait for things to get back to normal. My feeling was that maybe they never quite would and I found that I had mixed feelings about this. Obviously, we can't put the clock back a hundred years and trash all of our industrial and scientific development, but I really do hope that we all, especially the geniuses and clever individuals amongst us will

see this enforced shut down as a giant experiment and will use the conclusions to re-double our efforts and investments toward a more 'green' and sustainable world. I really do hope that this will happen, as I would like to 'become' an optimist and believe in a bright future for us all - Its not too late.

That sounds like it should be the end , but hang on a minute, this is supposed to be a column largely based on my fishing efforts and conclusions? Well, I do have to say that I have really enjoyed being able to get back out on the bankside recently - since the re-opening of most of our stillwaters and in the last week or so, the rivers. I must here, yet again, praise the efforts of



A good recent tench



A nice carp caught during a 'recce'!

the Angling Trust, for negotiating this 'extremely difficult' issue on our behalf. I strongly recommend that all anglers of every branch of our sport should give them their support.

Where was I? Oh yes, fishing. My personal results seem to be rather insignificant, when placed alongside these major events and happenings, but I have been doing a bit on both still and flowing waters recently and have had some really interesting fishing - that I will probably describe in much greater detail in the following issues (is that still the right description?)

I have had carp, tench, roach barbel and chub so far - without breaking any records, but of course, thoroughly enjoying the whole experience. I must say though, that I have been rather sad to see the return of the traffic hum and also felt quite indignant to witness the sight of the odd jet liner - encroaching on my virgin blue sky.

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Cracking start to the season for Dean!

Dean Creasey has had a fantastic start to the new season on his home river in Kent. As well as some fine traditional river fish, Dean has had a number of gorgeous looking river carp up to 25lbs 10ozs.



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



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

Hastings Bexhill & District Freshwater Angling Association
Season runs from 1st April to 31st March.

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



Normanhurst Lake

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.



Wishing Tree Reservoir

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

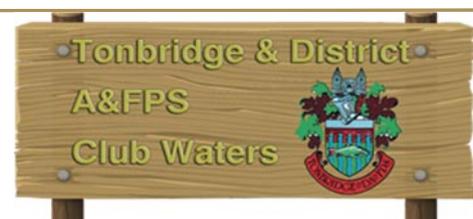
To apply to become a member please download and print the application form from our website. Complete and return to the Membership officer on the application, alternatively it is possible to purchase your membership from any of the tackle shops listed on our website.



River Rother

For further information please contact:
Chris Pagan 07429 655237 Steve Potter 07935 268174
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MEMBERSHIP FEE 2020/21 SEASON

Senior Membership - £70 + £10 Joining fee

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

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

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

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

PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB

Contact Martyn on **07802 248861**

TROUT INFORMER



Tenterden Trout Waters

We were delighted to re-open the fishery in mid May and it was fantastic to welcome our anglers back to enjoy the sport they love and we were very well supported which was tremendous. It was super to see our fishing friends and families happy and smiling again and be able to have a proper catch up on the banks having been locked down for so long.



We got off to a good start at Tenterden and some quality rainbows, browns and blues have been caught as you can see from the photos. June has now arrived and the fish have gone deeper due to the warmer, bright weather and our anglers are stalking the fish, but being rewarded for their efforts. We have stocked various weights from 3lbs – 10lbs. Popular patterns: Goldhead Montana, Buzzers, Hares Ear. For an up-to-date fishing report please go to our website and click on News/Fishing Report.

We are taking telephone bookings only so please call 01580 763201. If we don't answer, please leave your message, name and number and we will get back to you asap. This enables us to monitor how many anglers can safely fish at any one time, allowing for social distancing. The Fishery Lodge is only open for the use of the WC at this time to safeguard against indoor gatherings. We are not hiring out rods, tackle, nets until we know it is safe to do so. Fishing lessons will commence again in July with Richard Stokes, our Instructor, please email if you are interested in booking a session to learn the skill of fly fishing. It is always fun to learn new things in life!

We have an exciting event unfolding at our Fishery in September 2020.

Our dear friend, Charles Jardine, many of you will know of him as a multi-disciplined fly fisherman who has represented his country in this sport and through reading his articles and books. Charles will be holding a Skill Set Day which will start at 10am and finish at 5pm. We are fund raising together for Fishing for Schools which is an initiative that Charles started some 12 years ago, to help young people get into angling and back into education. It is now a national



Jason Portlock with his 7lbs 10oz Blue caught on a Black Nymph on Lake 3



Martin Penton with his 7lbs Rainbow caught on Lake 3 on a Woolly Buzzer

operation under the Countryside Alliance Foundation and enjoys Charitable status. Please visit the Fishery News on our website for further information and make contact to register your interest – we will take your name/contact details and confirm the date nearer to the time when we know the protocol surrounding the virus. We would hope to run it because it's being held outside and we have limited spaces to 25.



we would normally close to host weddings which are on hold due to the virus, please visit our website for Wedding Venue details. We look forward to welcoming you to our friendly fishery in the beautiful Weald of Kent.

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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. We shall remain open in July & August when

Tight Lines – Gaynor, Richard & Audrey

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We have 2 separate complexes each with 3 stream fed lakes which are regularly stocked throughout the season with hard fighting top condition rainbows and browns.

- Annual membership £285 (March-November)
- 25 visits – 3 fish limits
- Guests welcome (uses 1 of your visits each time)
- C&R on specified lakes (early season)

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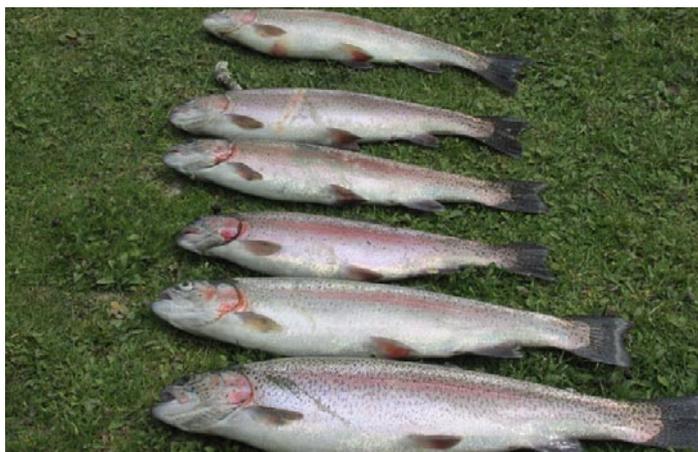
Hastings Fly Fishers Club

A lot has happened since we were last able to give a report for The Freshwater Informer April edition. In line with Government regulations, we sadly had to close the lake to all anglers from 23rd March and then sit and watch a fully stocked water with no one here to catch them!

Very frustrating. However, happy to say we cautiously re-opened on 16th May to members only with all necessary procedures in place and we have been able to enjoy some excellent fishing. Although the early Mayfly hatch was missed, the hatch continued through June and there have been some sizeable catches of 4lb and 5lb and a beautiful 8lb 4oz, all on Mayfly. We have also caught (and returned) a number of wild browns this year.

As a result of our restricting angler numbers and booking-in procedures, everyone has felt very safe and happy to be back on the lake and it has been lovely to meet up with everyone again (even at a distance). We are still not allowing day visitors throughout June, but are able to sell a limited number of batches of 5 day tickets, or 5 afternoon tickets, to be used before the end of September and we still have some of these available.

Please apply to the Secretary for further details, on 01424 870498.



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Full details of the Society and the fishing can be found on the website:

www.teiseanglers.org.uk

Memberships are currently available. If you are interested in becoming a member please contact the secretary.

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teisese secretary@gmail.com

Telephone: 07960 518738

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Fishing will start from 8am every day.

Day tickets - 6 fish limit, evening tickets - 4 fish limit.

Prices for 2020: February, March - 6 fish ticket	£35.00
April, May and June	£40.00
July - end of season	£35.00

Evening Tickets - from 2pm

February and March	£25.00
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www.hastingsflyfishers.co.uk
Email: mail@hastingsflyfishers.co.uk



Andy Lush - 'The Friendly Fisherman'

Lure Fishing

Back on the water!

Set free at last, I'm grateful to all the hard work of the ANGLING TRUST for making this happen so much sooner than any of us had expected. I've been fishing at a lot of different waters for trout and carp and without exception they've all have been very busy. What a difference the "lockdown" and the incredible weather have made. I also think that with so many people working from home now there was a desire to escape from indoors as soon as fishing got the green light to re-open.

It seems that with so much time on our hands a lot of 'lapsed' anglers have re-discovered their love for fishing; one fishery owner told me that ever since they'd re-opened, his fishery had been rammed every day. "If only 50% stick with it" there's going to be a whole lot of new anglers on the banks this year! That's got to be good news for our hobby, for the fisheries and for the local tackle shops. The other good thing to come out of the desperate situation is the number of families I've seen on the banks. At last some kids are getting the opportunity to have some real life, rather than virtual activity, outdoors in the fresh air. This all bodes well for the future of angling, once they've tasted some action it will be hard to sit in-doors while their mates are outdoors fishing and having fun. I'd just like to say **PLEASE** make every effort to welcome, help and encourage all these future anglers to our sport!

Now let's get back to the fishing ...!

Here are a few extracts from my infamous fishing diary:

May 15th Friday

I had a great day on the water with my good friend Gary Collins. We fished a special lake I know where we had the whole 9 acres to ourselves. It was a joy just to be out fishing again, enjoying the weather, the surroundings and the company! Gary proceeded to catch his fish quite easily, while I, for some reason, just couldn't concentrate on the fishing. Strangely, it didn't seem to matter! I was so chilled, an expression I never use, but, it describes how I felt rather well. I was quite happy to just watch, enjoy, and blank!



Gary Collins scoops his prize



Gary Collins first fish after lockdown

May 20th Wednesday

Wednesday was toasty so an afternoon fly fishing for carp at the Mushroom Farm near Hailsham seemed the sensible choice rather than chasing trout that would be "heat stressed". I was fishing with James Gardner AKA 'the Doc', we arrived around mid-afternoon hoping that there would be plenty of space as anglers started heading for home. The only problem was the carp



Andy Lush with a Mushroom Farm Common

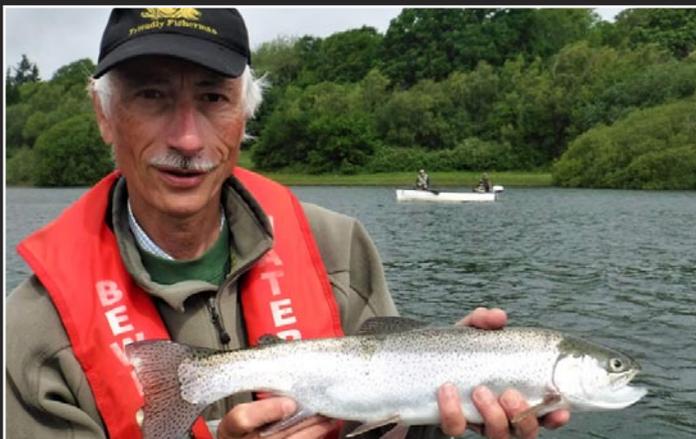
had been busy spawning in the morning, fortunately some fancied a snack, rather than a cigarette, in the evening, thank goodness! The fish were very fussy, not displaying their normal appetite for mixers, but the bailiff said all the lakes had been full of anglers desperate to get outside again. With the fish under constant pressure it wasn't surprising they were very cautious as they approached our surface flies. Nevertheless, we both managed to find a few that would co-operate and as usual James nobbled a few bigger specimens, so normal service had resumed! Is this the "new normal" they keep on about on the television? It seems more like "groundhog day" to me.

May 22nd Friday

Friday saw a complete change in weather with a dramatic drop in temperature coupled with a very strong south westerly wind. Gary Collins and I were fishing Bewl Water, our first chance since the lifting of the "lockdown". With no angling for several weeks, the stocked fish had now spread out all around the reservoir.

We would be fishing from a drifting boat which involves casting ahead of the boat; while your flies are sinking you have to retrieve your line at the same speed as the boats drift speed to remain in contact. When your flies have reached the desired depth you start your retrieve. This has to be at the drift speed plus whatever speed you think is appropriate, simples? I have to confess when I have to retrieve faster than my usual "figure of eight" retrieve, I'm out of my comfort zone and often resort to fishing dries, which I did on this occasion.

We elected to start at the top of "hook straight" in the hope that a few fish would be feeding in this sheltered area at the "top of the wind". Gary chose to fish sub-surface with a mixture of attractors, Blobs and Boobies with small nymphs in between, "washing line" style. The water was very clear and on our first drift, I saw what I'd hoped for, FISH! We were in the game and our confidence rose. Gary covered a fish, his strip retrieve grabbed its attention and immediately it gave chase bow waving in behind his flies. It was very exciting to watch as it chased his flies, as it closed in behind them the water bulged right were his flies were. Gary paused for a moment then recommenced his retrieve, everything locked up, "fish on". Followed very shortly after by, "fish off"!



Orange CDC Hopper accounted for this Bewl Rainbow

Within a few drifts, the fish melted away, fortunately not before I had my one and only chance. I spotted a change in the pattern of the ripple that suggested fish were present. I covered the spot and thankfully one obliged, taking my CDC Orange Hopper. After this early success we went hunting for more fish, but, failed to locate any despite our best efforts. A tough day on Bewl, not my first and I'm sure there will be many more in the future, but that's fishing!

May 24th Sunday

The weather has such a big influence on my choice of where I fish and what I fish for. James Gardner and I decided to pop down to Lakedown Trout Fishery near Burwash for a morning's fishing. Our intention was to start early and finish by lunchtime before it got too bright and hot.

A new era has dawned at Lakedown with a new man at the helm, Jamie Daltrey. My good friend Ted Cocklin, a vastly experienced fly fisherman, is still there as manager to advise Jamie on the day to day running of the fishery. Jamie and Ted are both keen to see Lakedown restored to its former glory. It's already noticeable that the lakes are getting the TLC they genuinely deserve. A huge amount of hard work has taken place with lots of pruning around all the four lakes, which has seen previously overgrown casting positioned re-opened and fishable.

James and I were worried that the exceptionally hot spring weather would have warmed the water too much and the trout would be sulking down deep. Fortunately, high winds and heavy rain over the preceding two days saw the water temperature drop and the fish responded by becoming very active.

We both headed for our favourite lake 2, the wind was piling down onto the dam and there was quite a bit of cloud cover. I elected to cast across the wind towards the small island from one of the casting promontories. I choose to use my Rio Midge Tip long, its 6ft intermediate sink tip allowed me to retrieve my fly at a variety of speeds without lifting up in the water. I was using a semi-buoyant FAB Blob; I chose this attractor fly because there were so many new stock fish in all the lakes. When I retrieved quickly my fly would go deeper and by slowing down or stopping it would rise. With a bit of imagination I could tease the fish into chasing and catching my fly. A great plan and it worked, my four fish bag weighed 12lbs with the best going 3lb 8oz. James pitched in with three fish for 9lbs, all the fish were in superb condition and fought really hard, Lakedown is back!

May 25th Monday

I got an unexpected call from Mark Bryant, AKA Capt. 'Flip Flop', inviting me on a wreck fishing trip, if I was up for it? I was tired after cramming so much fishing in over the last few days, but immediately said YES! Meet me at 5.45am and don't be late. I slightly regretted saying yes as I would have to get up at a "sparrows fart" in order to have breakfast before undertaking an hour's drive to Newhaven.

It was a stunning morning, hardly a ripple to be seen nor a cloud in the sky and comfortably warm too. What was surprising was the total lack of any other fishing boats in such perfect conditions? We motored only a few miles out before starting to fish for pollack. We were using soft plastic sandeels and shads fished on long



Stunning Lakedown



Andy looks happy with this Lakedown Rainbow



Mark Bryant with a superb Pollack

traces, around 8-10ft long. We slowly lowered our weights to the bottom before starting a slow, but, constant retrieve while counting the number of turns of the reel handle. Up to 30 turns sees the lures swim up off the bottom and over the wrecks structure, hopefully. If you don't hook a fish or the wreck, you send your lure back to the bottom and repeat the whole process again. Takes are indicated at first by a few sharp taps before everything slowly gets heavier and tighter until everything "locks up" and "you wind into the fish" the rod then takes on a health fighting curve.

As well as catching some nice pollack, bass and wrasse, Mark had an amazing cuckoo wrasse which looked like an escapee from a tropical fish tank! We also managed to catch a few Unicorns, cod!

We did a bit of wreck hopping while Mark tried out some new electronics he'd added to his already impressive equipment. Finally, we went in-shore under the cliffs to see if there were any bass about. Judging by the collection of commercial "rod and line" bass boats we saw on a small patch of rough ground near Beachy Head, we assumed they had found a concentration of fish, but it was far too busy for us, so we mooched on. We eventually trolled back to harbour without any further action. What a super day, the first of many I hope on the 'briney' this year.

I have lots more I could write about, but, for now that's all!

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

To book a day email: info@thefriendlyfisherman.co.uk

with your contact phone number and Andy will call you back and discuss details.

GUIDED LURE & FLY FISHING DAYS

WITH ANDY LUSH

LURE FISHING

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

FLY FISHING

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

TROUT

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

CARP & PIKE

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

For details contact Andy Lush on
01892 528677



Tight lines. Andy Lush

Sea Informer

Medway and Kent Sea Fishing Group



Sea Informer is kindly sponsored by
Medway & Kent Sea Fishing Group

'Visit our page for chat, tips, news and members' catch reports!'

The last Sea Informer saw us looking forward to Spring and now here we are in mid Summer! Once the 'lockdown' restrictions were eased and angling was allowed once again, our beaches have seen lots of anglers fishing, many returning to the hobby after not having fished for many years. There have been plenty of fish caught right around the region. The rays are still being caught in good numbers and there are now plenty of smooth-hounds being caught. The bass are also good numbers, but mostly under 5lbs. Odd mackerel have been caught but they are yet to appear in any quantity. Plaice fishing has been rather sporadic due to water conditions, but good catches have been made especially along the Sussex coast. Some good soles have been landed, but once again a little hit and miss. The current sea temperature around our coastline is 15 - 17 degrees! Almost at bath temperature!

Thames report courtesy of Wayne May

"Greenhithe and Swanscombe peninsula, plenty of flatties are being caught of reasonable size this month, rig of choice is the three hook flapper. We've had great success this year using frozen blacks, The bass are also showing along the river as far as Erith pier, with one exceeding double figures caught near Gravesend. Gravesend near the LV light Boat, a small smooth-hound was landed and safely returned, caught on peeler, while targeting the bass. Further up river into the estuary, there has also been some excellent reports of several bass landed up to 15lb, smooth-hound are in abundance both from the shore and charters, as well as thornbacks being caught inshore and in the estuary, favoured rigs are long flowing traces baited with herring, hard backs or peelers."





NJ Tackle at Gravesend is now open again with plenty of fresh and frozen baits in stock. Call 01474 353998.

Medway report courtesy of Daniel Terry

"I had a weird session at Rochester recently. I arrived there pretty early with an hour of ebb tide still flowing a tad. My first cast with the big rod in to the flow resulted in the rod folding over with a 3lb bass! As I looked to my side, my spinning rod with a ball shot and one hook flowing trace was shooting off in to the bay with a 2.1lb bass as well, quite a job dealing with both at once! What a fight that was on the small spinning rod! It went quiet after that apart from a big tail bitten pout and a few knocks in the bay trotting the rag on the tide in . I packed up about 5 with high tide being around 6.45. It was a good job I was there early! Thanks to Medway Tackle Supplies for the quality ragworm." **Call Medway Tackle Supplies on 01634 475260.**

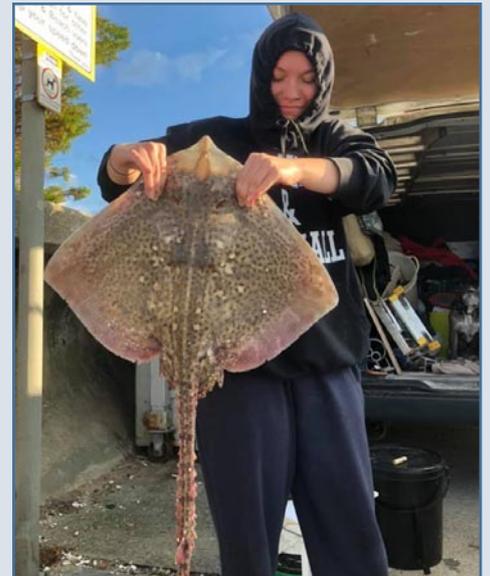


Sheppey report courtesy of Sheppey Angling

Plenty of fish being caught from around the island. Rays still around in good numbers coming to fish baits, smooth-hounds to crab baits, bass, flatfish and a few eels. All marks fishing well. Be aware of the cliff fall at the Eastchurch Gap and take care when fishing other marks close to cliff edges as they are pretty unstable at the moment. **Call Sheppey Angling on 01795 661089 for quality fresh and frozen baits and all your tackle requirements.**



Sheppey continued



Thanet report courtesy of Fisherman's Corner

"Ramsgate and Thanet generally have fished consistently well this year with anglers catching species like sole, rays, hounds, bass and even a turbot!! Ramsgate East Pier is open 24hrs a day, 7 days a week and is free to fish/park. With a lot of pier venues currently not open for fishing our pier has become busy. We ask that anglers leave the pier clean and tidy and respect social distancing. **Any advice on fishing in the Thanet area or for bait and tackle, please contact Fisherman's Corner on 01843 582174. We are situated just a 'short cast' opposite the pier!"**



Deal report

The pier is still closed for fishing due to damage on the lower deck so anglers are using the many beaches in the area. From Kingsdown to Sandwich, this whole stretch has provided a dogfish 'fest' for anglers. Such is the amount of dogfish present, other fish have struggled to get to anglers baits fast enough! However, when they have smooth-hounds, bass, dabs, pouting, rays and whiting have added to the catches. No reports of any mackerel in numbers at present.

Call Fred Leach at Channel Angling Deal for your bait and tackle requirements on 01304 373104.



Dover report

The Admiralty Pier remains closed with no opening date available at present. Shakespeare beach has been popular with anglers catching dogfish, pouting, smooth-hounds, bass, the odd plaice and a few mackerel. Good news is that Samphire Hoe is now open again and early catches have consisted of pollack, wrasse, small bass and the odd mackerel. **Channel Angling at Dover always has a great selection of quality fresh and frozen baits in stock along with a massive stock of all your tackle and accessories. Call 01304 203742.**

Hythe & surrounding areas report courtesy of Steve Bates

"I would like to start by wishing you all well and it's great to be back once again bringing you the latest and most up to date catch reports from the Hythe and surrounding areas. Although lockdown has been tough, we have managed to come out of the other side and once again enjoy the sport we all love.

Sandgate, Hythe and through to Dymchurch has fished well 'post lockdown', with some good reports of bass, eels, thornback rays, plaice, the odd smooth-hound, the odd early sole and many of the usual suspects to keep us all busy. In the daytime when the water is clear, you can expect to find plaice on the ebb with 2-3 hours after HW producing some of the better fish. On a cloudier day and the water murky you can expect to pick up rays and bass as they move within casting range and there has also been the odd smooth-hound caught which is good to hear as some venues on the North Kent coast can be unfishable at times due to the weed, so Hythe is definitely worth a try when after these summer species. Beware of the spider crab! There are

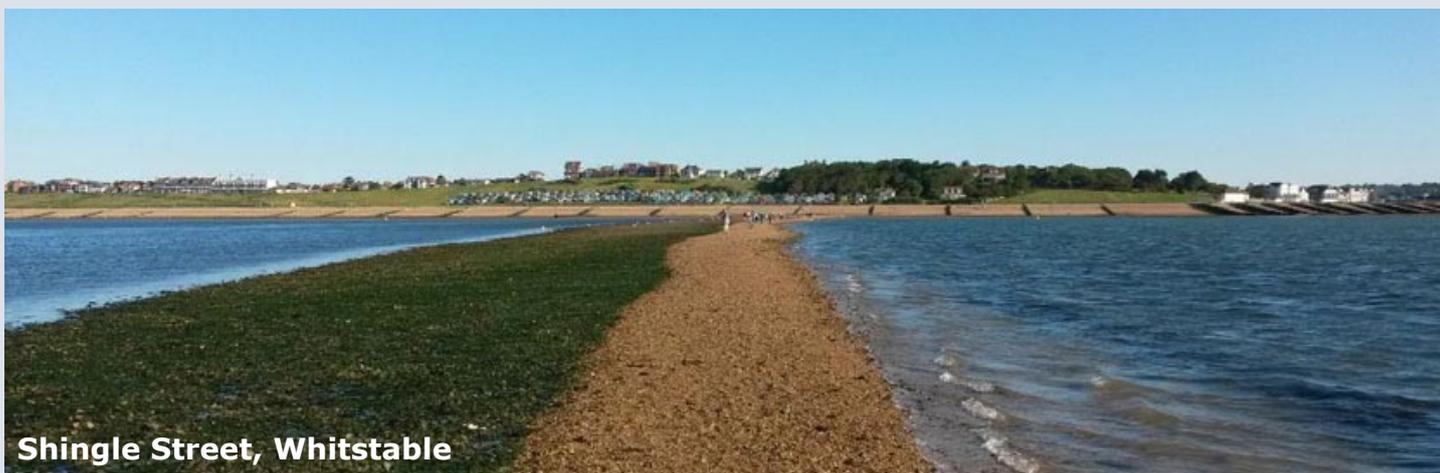


large numbers of these all along the coastline as they move in to shed and will strip baits if you are unlucky enough to cast among them. I have not seen any reports (yet), but it's worth dusting off the feathers and trying for mackerel over HW or if fishing near the groyne boulders, it's worth casting a lure for bass as well. Evening into night time will see you catch plenty of whiting, dogfish, dabs, rays, bass and an early sole. Baits and rigs doing the business, 2 hook flappers, clipped down rigs baited with fresh worm tipped with squid or small pieces of sandeel and pulley droppers fished with bluey or whole squid will see you find plenty of fish." **Local tackle shops are Dens Tackle 01303 267053 and Best Buddies 01303 487144.**



Weedy but fishable! James Clifton and his dad Graham had a session on the North Kent coast and although the weed made fishing difficult, they had some lovely hounds:

"We fished the North Kent coast recently and managed a couple of hounds with the biggest at 10lb 6oz. The weed was terrible so we only had a 30 minute spell over high water when we could keep the rods in the water, but managed to make the most of it . I had two hounds and my dad had one."



Shingle Street, Whitstable

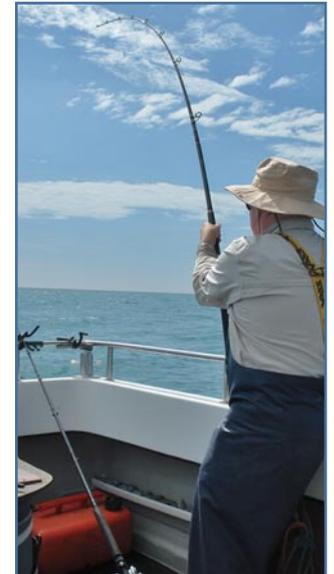
HASTINGS

courtesy of Hastings Angling Centre

Fishing from both the shore and in the boats has been very good lately and angling in general has been very popular with large numbers of anglers out catching. Good numbers of smooth-hounds up to 12lb have been reported. The really good news is that there are lots of school bass in the 2-3lb range about with some better ones amongst them up to 10lb. Codling and some cod have also made a very welcome reappearance with several making double figures. Not many on the wrecks mainly on rough ground. Some good pollack on the deep wrecks now. Rays as usual everywhere in the boats and plenty off the shore towards Eastbourne. Some very good soles have also been caught from the shore especially evenings into darkness. Mackerel are not about in large numbers yet with only odd shoals coming to the beach and boats catching just enough for some fresh bait. Black bream are only just arriving. Prospects for July are looking good, given calm weather mackerel and bass from the shore on lures, soles, rays and smooth-hounds in the evenings. Out in the boats, black bream and bass will be getting on the wrecks and codling, tope and hounds on rough ground. Plaice should be coming into prime condition now.

Hopefully with further reductions in the social distancing rules soon, the boats will be able to fish more than 2 people, clubs open up and match fishing resumes properly. With many people now having to take holidays in the UK, it looks like it could be a busy Summer and Autumn. Let us hope the weather obliges!

Here are some of the fine fish caught recently from the local boats:





KENT BOAT REPORT

by Jason Parrott

THE FISHING THIS MONTH HAS BEEN AMAZING!

Let's start with the smooth-hounds. We have boated lots of fish, some near the 20 lb mark. They have come in numbers and all sorts of rigs have been working with the basic flowing trace and the pulley rig for uptiding being successful. Bait has been the major criteria as in certain states of the tide they have been going crazy for peeler crab. When the tide changes, they seem to want the more natural look of crab, just thrown on the hook, peel back and away you go. Once the tide begins moving, they will want hard backs and I have found that you must take the back legs off to stop them burrowing. I like to nick just through the side of the shell or go through the back leg sockets, but I don't like to use too bigger hooks. We missed a lot of good fish early on until we went to smaller hooks either 2/0 or 3/0 wide gape being ideal. Let's hope it's a good breeding year as all the female hounds are weighed and released.

Bass fishing has been a bit hit and miss. We can't seem to get any numbers whilst anchored, but, on the drift it has been fantastic with fish up to 7 lbs and coming in numbers. We have sometimes had a full house which is interesting to get aboard! We have also found colour selection on lures and feathers is crucial, so have a play around if you have no joy. The bass feeding pattern is a very erratic one and once the birds start you have to be lucky and be in the right place at the right time! A bit of local knowledge is needed as well as a lot of luck. If you do target bass, I would suggest single lug on the bottom for them. It always seems to do the trick, but, if you are after that fish of a lifetime, maybe pursue with double squid, but this will bring dog after dog. Remember that you are just after that one fish!

Skate fishing has also been very good with some nice size females up to 14lb. It hasn't been unusual to boat 20 or 30 fish in a day with right weather conditions and spot but getting the right weather now is the biggest problem. There has been a lot of easterlies hitting us so let's hope for more south west winds and clearer water.

I would like to say thank you to all the Lady Ann's customers for being so understanding in these hard times and for the support that you have shown! Let's hope for safer and happier times ahead and please keep safe and we hope to see some of you very soon aboard Lady Ann of Ramsgate."

Tight lines, Jason

If you fancy a great day's fishing out on the Lady Ann, please call Jason on 07966 273650.





SAM'S FISHING JOURNAL

courtesy of Sam Cox

My Covid-19 Lock Down Experience So Far!

On Saturday 14th March my long-time friend Simon Manning and I spent the last day of the coarse season fishing the Norfolk Broads from my boat. I worked the following Monday and Wednesday then due to having bad lungs decided to lock down. The next day my wife, Tracie, started working from home. Then on the 23rd of March Boris locked us down! We are very lucky and live next door to Hamstreet Woods, so we took our daily walks there with our beloved Jack Russel, Speck and watched Spring develop into Summer. A few weeks later one of Tracie's very close friends lost her partner to Covid-19. This hit home to us that we had been very lucky to have dodged the Covid-19 'bullet'!

I think it was around the 13th of May that we were given the green light to fish again. Like millions of anglers, I had been desperate to wet a line and just the fact that this was allowed lifted my spirits and got my angling juices flowing. As well as having the woods close by we also have the Royal Military Canal just up the road and it was here that, after what seemed like years, I was to start my new mid pandemic angling life.

At first, as excited as I was, I felt like a naughty school boy, and just sat there with all the worries that this dreaded 'lurgey' brings running through my thoughts. Towards the end of May, I started getting the odd day's work, averaging two days a week. This sliver of normality helped to settle my thoughts and I again started to enjoy my angling.

My dear old Dad insisted on giving me some money so I could put fuel in my van and to buy bait, this really helped as without it, my angling was to be on an extremely tight budget and would be limited to the canal. This kind act from my Dad enabled me to start my 2020 sea angling campaign, all be it on a small scale compared to previous Covid-19 free years.

I ventured to the Isle of Sheppey on two occasions to collect peeler and soft crabs just as the first big moult of the male crabs was finishing. Despite this, I still managed to collect enough crabs for a few sessions. I have to say it was very disappointing to find that most of the rocks had been turned and left the wrong way up. This means that any weed on the top side of the rock will rot and kill off the eco system underneath and around it. If you have not collected peeler and soft crabs and would like some basic information on the subject, I did write an article in one of last year's Spring editions of the magazine that can be found in the magazines vast back issue library. You will find it in the archives section on the Freshwater Informer website

My first trip was to Folkestone Warren where I met Warren Hayes and his pal for a few hours 'social distancing' fishing. However, I just was not feeling it, so after just three casts and forty five minutes I headed home.

A few more sessions on the canal saw me bank a few bream, a nice tench and a very pretty 1.4lb rudd that I was very happy to see.



11b 2oz RMC rudd



Richard Ashenden with Crouch hound

Around this time I was getting reports from my old Essex stomping grounds of large catches of smooth-hounds coming from the banks of the river Crouch. Every year, the odd small hound is caught from this small ditch like estuary but these numbers and sizes are not heard off, at least in my life time.

I had received several phone calls from excited friends in Essex about the abnormal packs of smooth-hounds showing in the river Crouch, including one from Simon Manning informing me that his friend Richard Ashenden and himself had caught three smooth-hounds from a very shallow part of the Crouch. Richard had in fact caught his first hound of 10-12 pounds on a barbel rod in three foot of water giving a spectacular fight. These fish were only in this area for around one hour, then they were gone. I decided I needed a trip to Essex!

I arranged to meet both Simon and other angling pal Andy Easy at the chosen mark, again social distancing at around ten meters. Alas by the next day the wind had turned to the east and the hounds were just not there.

The following trip was just to use up the few crabs I had left. I opted for a rough ground mark between Folkestone & Hythe. First cast saw my rod arch over and a decent fish tore off stripping a few yards of line from the spool, then the hook pulled. Cursing to myself I rebaited and cast to the same spot. Within minutes, I had another decent bite and after a short, but spirited fight a very pretty ballan wrasse of about two pounds or so lay glistening on the beach. This was my last bite and after a few more casts I left for home.

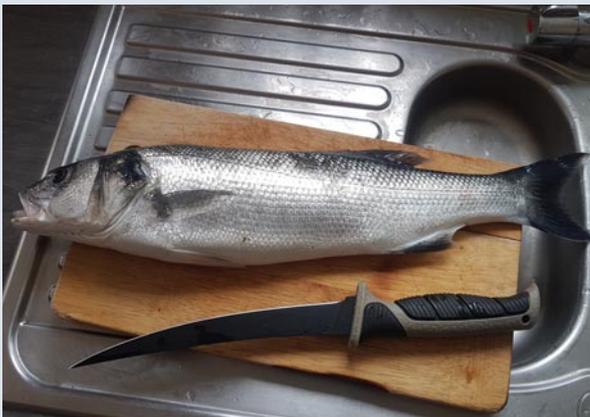


The pretty ballan wrasse from Hythe

Next was a trip up the road to Dengmarsh. I chose this mark as the Dungeness Estate was still closed to the public at the time. As I parked my van, I was astonished at the amount of rubbish there was around the one bin in the area. I was more shocked at what I was met with as I got to the beach. There was at least 200 people camping and fishing, and social distancing was nowhere to be seen. I decided to walk a long way past this heaving mass of potential infection and I ended up opposite the famous 'boil' by the Power Station.

Now the first two shocks were nothing compared to what was to come. Around an hour into my bite less session there appeared a figure walking up the beach towards me. As he approached me it very quickly became apparent that he was totally and utterly naked! Thankfully he was the only person I met that day who abided by social distancing rules. The world has truly gone mad!

My next four trips were short 'early doors' sessions, two of which were social distance sessions with my mate Jack Daniel Wells from Live Stream Fishing. The two sessions with Jack resulted in two small 36cm bass, and lots of dog fish. I did have one aborted take on a whiting live bait. The next session was on my own and just resulted in dog fish. I then changed tact, up until this point all the Dungeness trips had been carried out from three hours flood until one hour ebb. The next session was started two hours before low water, and the results speak for themselves. I lost count of the dog fish at fifteen and landed four bass, one at 20cm two at just over 40cm and one that came home of just over three pounds. The larger bass was humanely dispatched and filleted. Tracie and I served it up in a lovely lemon and garlic sauce that very evening. Fresh caught bass takes a lot of beating!



Bass from Dungeness



Dungeness bass fillets



Bass from Dungeness in garlic and lemon sauce

On Saturday the 13th of June I was sat at home watching fishing stuff on YouTube while my 17 year old daughter slept in her pit. This was the first time Willow has been here since late February as up until now she wanted to socially isolate. Again one more step to some sort of normality I decided on a few hours down the canal would not hurt.



A 3lb 8oz RMC tench



A 3lb 8oz RMC bream

On arriving at the canal there was a chap already set up about thirty yards from where I was planning to fish. He was obviously desperate to catch a fish or three as he was long lining with four rods out. After a brief chat it tuned out that according to him there wasn't any fish in the canal as he had not even had a bite.

I only had a loaf of white bread as bait and my usual 13 foot light float road with a reel loaded with 4lb line as my weapons. I used a very small float with one swan shot three inches above the size 10 hook. I really enjoy fishing the lift bite method and it's perfect for tackling the shallow waters of the canal. I had not been there ten minutes when my float bounced up and laid flat on the surface, as soon as I struck I knew it was a tench, that very familiar fight as the fish keep burying with lunges from its powerful paint brush like tail.

I then dropped a couple of roach that shook the barbless hook. Next I caught a very pretty hand sized rudd. I always enjoy catching rudd as it brings back happy memories of childhood days spent fishing local Essex pits and ponds filled with them. I then landed a rather thin, ill looking bream of 3.8lb. My last fish beat me up a little and got stuck in the weeds. It took a good five minutes for her to swim out, by this time I had lost my balance and slipped down the bank immersing my right leg up to the knee in the canal. By this time, it was nearly 11:00 and I expected that my daughter Willow might be up and about, so I said cheerio to the unimpressed, fishless guy next door and left with a nice smile on my face!

So all in all, despite the stress that has come with Covid-19, I have at last managed to start enjoying my angling again. Far better to drift off to sleep planning your next fishing trip than it is to lay there for hours worried sick about the economy and about the odds of catching the dreaded 'lurgey'!



A 4lb tench from the RMC

DUNGENESS Latest catch reports on www.seagullfishingtackle.com

The beaches have been packed with those on the 'furlough' scheme once the Dungeness Estate reopened. Fishing in the summer can be a bit hit or miss, but some great fishing reported on beach and boat (now that some charter boats are getting out with reduced crews). The most striking thing to me is the sea temperatures, very high last winter and now heading towards 17 degrees...two months early!

BEACH REPORTS

Some great bass fishing, yes we are still knee deep in dogfish, but the striking thing is the large number of fishermen on the beaches...those on furlough, plus good weather?

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

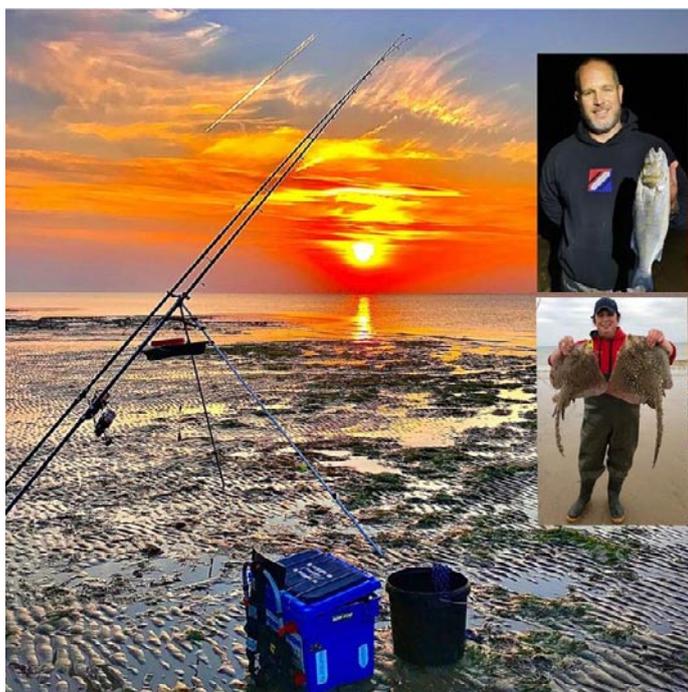
A fish of a lifetime for Paul!



I had this report in yesterday from Paul Wallis, a cracking bass! But that little bream is unusual...very early in the summer for those to turn up...so well done to your granddaughter...!

"Hi Tony, just thought I would report my PB bass of 10 lbs 7oz caught 20 minutes before high water behind the Power Station. I picked up fresh blacks from the fish Hut on the way, arrived at Dungeness Power Station and set up the tackle and shelter (just in case of rain)!"

Wifey made a cup of tea for us while my granddaughter was keeping an eye on the dog. Very small bite on 1 rod and then the fight was on. 15 minutes later this nice bass was landed after taking me and my other rod up and down the beach a few times. About an hour later my granddaughter caught a small bream which was returned unharmed. Wifey managed a small crab, also returned. A little later



I had another bass of 43cm and 2 hours after a small whiting which we returned. Then the wind picked up a bit and the temperature dropped. The may weed was now being a bit of a problem so we decided to call it a day, packed up collected our rubbish together to take home with us and headed to London. All in all, a very memorable day. Just want to say thanks to the guy at the fish Hut for the quality bait and we hope to come back soon. Regards, Paul and family."

Who let the dogs out...Becky... !

I had this great report in from Becky Lee:

"So yesterday evening myself, Richard Smith and Stevie Bates headed to North Kent to target the hounds again. We arrived just after 7pm (low water 10pm) and we were fishing by 19:30. Baits were hardback and peeler crab using pulley pannel rigs. The pannel being a very small circle at the top of the bottom hook. It was very quiet on the last of the ebb and it wasn't until it was dark and just after low water the first bites showed. Richard's waders hadn't arrived so he couldn't get out as far, Stevie and I were both wading and I was wading a bit further. All night I used this tactic. The first fish landed was a hound of 9lb by myself, swiftly followed by a couple of dogfish also. Then after another half an hour another hound hit the beach of 7lb. Richard had a couple of hound bites but missed them. He managed a dogfish and a small schoolie. I then had another 3 hounds of 4lb, 6lb and 8lb with another couple of dogfish. Blanky Bates finished the night with zero. Scores on the night were; Richard - Dogfish and a Bass, Blanky Bates, Becky - 5 hounds and 5 dogfish. All the hounds caught and dogfish I had were by wading 60-70 yards out then casting. Nothing else caught in short."

#insert image Who let dogs out

**Well done Shannon ...1st fish ever!****I had this report in from Darren Selves this afternoon:**

"Hi all. I took my daughter fishing this morning behind the power station. We had a few bass and a flounder and my daughter Shannon caught a nice bass, her first ever fish !"

Dungeness and your first fish**I had this report in this evening from Matthew Mark having a great day out with his wife:**

"Hi Tony. We fished by the boats at Dungeness today. Early start and plenty of dog fish. Caught a very nice thornback at around 8.30am on a squid and bluey cocktail. My wife had a very good first fishing experience here at Dungeness catching her first fish. Smiles all round."

**Beach outlook for July**

With the sea temperatures so high anything could turn up, but we are hoping for a bumper crop of mackerel. I hope to have a good sole session or two.

Best baits

Lugworm is still in short supply, my bait of choice for sole, but fish baits will work for most species.

BOAT REPORTS

This has been so tough with the virus keeping boats ashore, but at last we are 'creeping' back. Here are a couple of boat reports coming into my site...



Jem in front, Dave at the back!

I saw this report from Jerry Oiler of Fairchance fame (01797 363544) launching from Dungeness:

"Fairchance fishing today 01797 363544 Dungeness Dave Foggy Robinson, distancing on his own today, caught a fine 40 lb tope, and the mackerel

have turned up. A beautiful day to be afloat. Happy Days."



Hello boys, I'm back!

This report is just in from Anthony out on Peganina (07989 778361) from Rye:

"So finally back to sea today, and a good steady flow of fish all day! Very encouraging to see was the half dozen or so

codling in between the pollack. As normal, I am behind on my diary so if you have messaged me about a trip, I will get back to

you soon! Obviously with the current situation we are not running at full capacity and I only really want take small whole boat booking, but as the weeks go on I will start running mixed crews again! Cheers Ant"



Good mixed bag...(13 June)

I saw this report from Jerry Oiller today out on Fairchance launching from Dungeness:

"Fairchance fishing Dungeness 01797 363544 Today The Three Amigos aboard today, Dan, Shirley and Foggy Robinson, managed 3 plump codling about 3 or 4 lbs, on one drift, also caught 5 or 6 pollack on the last of the flood tide. Anchored for the ebb, tope, bass, thornback caught. Happy days"



So many beautiful codling!

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

"A very happy David with a lovely plump codling. Fishing wasn't easy - as normal! But with lots of hunting around we still managed 10 different species."

Boat outlook for July

The weather is very erratic, but when you do get afloat the fishing has been great, plenty of mackerel about. The shop has been amazed at the quality of the cod fishing, this should continue, and anytime soon a few congers should appear.

Best baits

While we have plenty of mackerel...everything else is a bonus.



Top local angler Andrew Cook has been back out on the beach and this month reports from his venture over to the Isle of Sheppey

OUT AND ABOUT WITH ANDY

by Andrew Cook



Back to a bit of form - Wednesday had been my last planned trip before returning to work, but when I got a message from Trev Hartley about fishing I decided to test the water with the better half. "Sure babe, go off and enjoy yourself!" was her reply, so within minutes I was back on the blower confirming with Trev and organising bait.

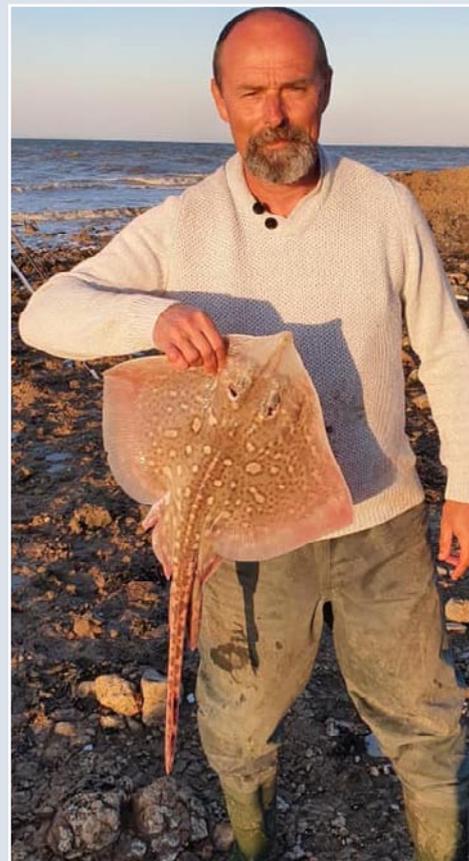
We had planned to return to The Gap, but waking up to the morning's news regarding the

landslide, a quick change of venue was needed, so we agreed on Warden point. I was in the car park at 1pm, meeting Trev and Leon Davis, the coastguard were on site both in the car park and the helicopter circling over the gap where the landslide had been. A quick chat with the coastguard lads and we were off on the 20 minute walk to the point. Plenty of surf, but not big, a brisk North Easterly was blowing, but still very fishable and the water was a deep brown - Lovely!

I had set up on the point by 1:30 and bait went out, just the one rod today, armed with a pulley rig and loaded with ragworm and peeler combo. This is a tricky spot so trying to manage two rods in close proximity to others is asking for trouble. We all get a few light rattles early on which I presume were school bass or eels pulling at the ragworm. Leon struck first with a nice 5lbs male thornback, followed shortly by another, a little smaller. I then managed a bootlace eel that was foul hooked half way down its body.

The tide began flooding hard over the rocks and we were constantly having to move back. I then got





another nice bite which snagged me up after about 20 yards. I gave it some line and it freed itself and I manoeuvred it through the rocks and into a shallow pool right in front of me and then the hook pulled ! Luckily Leon was standing next to me and he trapped it in the corner of the pool, a nice female of 6lbs 10ozs. Trev then lost a fish, but quickly redeemed himself with another ray landed, a male of around four pounds but it fought so hard we thought it was a hound.

It went a bit quiet over HW but as the tide started to ebb, I connected with another smaller ray that also found a snag but luckily freed itself, so that was two on the shingle, (or rocks)! For three consecutive casts Trev connected with a fish but amazingly lost each one, one to a snag and two spat the hook, bad luck mate!

At 9:30 and with the tide ebbing fast and darkness falling, we called it a day, five rays and a bootlace between us. No hounds, but I was happy as after the last two sessions I had managed to land a couple of half decent fish. It is always great to get out with Trev and Leon as well.

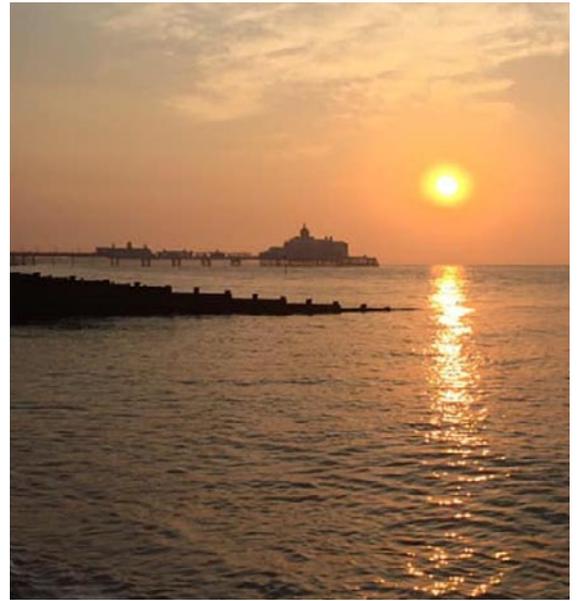
A bit about the location - The whole stretch of water isn't for the faint hearted, it's a hard walk over uneven ground which can be a little soft in places. The cliff falls are hazardous so the best way to walk round is at low tide out on the beach. When we walked back we noticed that there had actually been a fairly large fall while we had been fishing. The mark itself isn't overly snaggy further out, I lost two sets of tackle, but you are retrieving over very rough ground with boulders and lumps of metal so the key is get the lead moving then reel like hell!"



Eastbourne area

courtesy of Tony's Tackle Shop

As predicted, the hounds arrived this month gorging on crab baits and some taken on squid and lugworm. The hounds have been the dominant fish at Langney Point although small plaice, a few bass and some good size soles have been caught. I predict the soles to arrive in numbers this month. Some bream have been reported in the last few days and I expect this to increase and many will be caught on the boats. Small size 4 hooks are the order of the day coupled with 3 hook rigs as the soles are normally closer in. Black lug and ragworm are the best baits. I expect some larger smooth-hound to be caught and I have already have seen plenty of rods being dragged down the beach! They are also showing at Pevensey and Cooden beaches in numbers. Due to hounds being caught almost everywhere, peeler crab has been in short supply We have suffered a bit, but refuse to buy inferior frozen crab! We have sourced some top quality frozen sand eels



from Devon which will arrive next week. If you require any, I strongly suggest you order some as they will not last long! We will post when they arrive. Our lug continue to be top quality and after a carrier problem with the rag worm things are good now with the new carrier. I expect mackerel action all along the South coast with deep water seafood producing plenty from the tide mills area. Eastbourne boats have caught plenty of bass, rays and a few good cod from the Light Tower area and Beachy Head marks and some good size pollack from the wrecks.



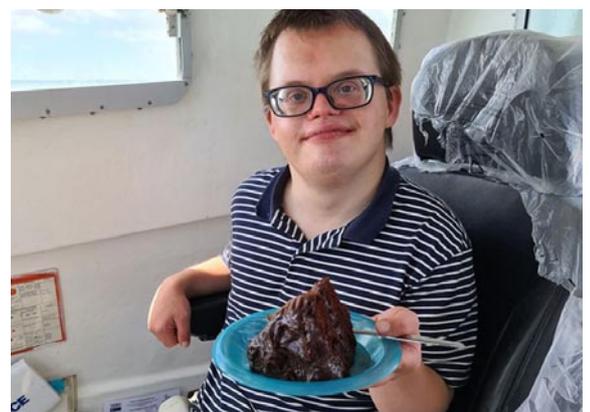


James Clifton 9lbs Sussex coast

If you would like to order bait, our number is **01323 731388** or **07821 514853**. Please note, we will not be beaten on bait prices! Price match is in operation, please quote this number **147** and we will match any price!" **Tight lines, Tony Kirrage**

Captain James skips the Lady Ann!

Young **James** is a regular aboard Jason Parrott's Lady Ann and recently went afloat and had a good day's fishing. Apparently James highly recommends the chocolate fudge cake!





Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMA's)

A recent report was published and sent sea anglers, not just in the South East but nationwide, in to panic mode. Tony Hills of Seagull Fishing Tackle briefly explains what the report was all about.

FIRSTLY, DON'T PANIC...!

An independent review led by former Fisheries Minister Richard Benyon, and published on World Ocean Day, is calling for the introduction of Highly Protected Marine Areas in English waters. The review was commissioned on last year's world ocean day by the then Environment Secretary Michael Gove as part of the Government's drive to protect our waters.

Key recommendations include:

- the introduction of Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs) within the existing network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to allow for the full protection and recovery of marine ecosystems
- A 'whole site approach' to protect all species and habitats within the HPMA boundaries.
- So what does this mean to us salt water anglers?

It's about the direction of travel the government wants regarding more protected marine areas...why, because they wish to be and appear more 'green'!

Yes, we all want to protect our marine environment...but the balance needs to be found between extending our marine conservation areas, and protecting our fishing and coastal communities...it's all about balance.

Jean-Luc Solandt of the Marine Conservation Society said: "*The government had an opportunity to designate 65 HPMA sites in English waters back in 2013, but failed to do so, citing a 'lack of evidence' and bowing to pressure from industry and fishing lobbyists. The [HPMA report] is promising, but means nothing if the government – after decades of delay – doesn't get them in place with urgency.*"

Yes, the nature lobby failed to get the introduction of 'reference' (no go) areas within MCZ's (Marine Conservation Zones)...I served for Recreational Sea Angling on the 'Balanced Seas', the group charged with bringing MCZ's to the south coast of England.

The evidence was not there that these 'no go' areas would have a significant effect on protecting marine wildlife...it is so much more complicated.

The Government intends to select 'Candidate' areas, say five from around the coast, to test how these sites will work and how they can be policed.

It makes sense to me, that these areas to be tested are not popular for fishing, or areas of high marine traffic. Let us work with the 'grain'. I'm a fan of 'Blue Carbon' concept, letting kelp and sea grass spread to enrich and capture more carbon (better than trees) making a richer and more diverse marine eco-systems.

We can make this work, if we want, progress can be found. If we can bring some rational balance to bear...then the policing and protection of these areas would be so more achievable...as I said, working with the grain.

Cllr. Tony Hills

Coarse Fisheries

Beaver Farm Fishery Eastbourne Road, Newchapel, Lingfield RH7 6HL	01342 324006 / 07710 656041
Charlies Lakes Steeds Lane, Kingsnorth, Ashford TN26 1NH	07857 539785
Chequertree Trout and Coarse Fishery Bethersden, Near Ashford TN26 3JR	01233 820078
Claygate Lakes Collier Street, Claygate, Marden TN12 9PL	07770 513448
Coombewood Fishery Redbrook Street, High Halden, Near Ashford TN26 3JH	07895 679569
Elphicks Fisheries Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden TN12 8EL	01580 212512
Furnace Brook Fishery & Fish Farm Trolliloes, Cowbeech, near Hailsham BN27 4QR	01435 830835
Gabriels Fishery Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP	07730 066088
Greenacres Farm Fishery Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden TN27 8EH	07933 934942
Hartley Lands Fishery Swattenden Lane, Cranbrook TN17 3PS	07703 825064
Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	01580 753813
Iden Wood Fishery Coldharbour Lane, Iden, Rye TN31 7UT	01797 280180 / 07906 232225
Knightingales Fishery Stone-In-Oxney, Near Tenterden TN30 7HA	07941 176205
Mousehole Lakes Maidstone Road, Nettlestead, Near Paddock Wood ME18 5HR	07725 783405
Orchard Place Farm Fishery Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood TN12 6NY	01892 838576 / 07568 176058
Sandwich Lakes Coarse Fishery Sandwich Ash Road (A257), Near Canterbury CT3 2DA	07936 409912
Tricklebrook Fishery Colts Hill, Five Oak Green TN12 6SH	07743 955812
Wylands International Angling Centre Wylands Farm, Powdermill Lane, Battle TN33 0SU	01424 893394

Trout Fisheries

Chalk Springs Park Bottom, Arundel BN18 0AA	01903 883742
Cinder Hill Fly Fishing Membership available from <i>email: r.nathan@btinternet.com</i>	01892 770903
Hastings Fly Fishers Club Powdermill Reservoir, Reservoir Lane, Sedlescombe TN33 0PJ	01424 870498
Hazel Copse Trout Fishery Baynards, Rudgwick RH12 3AF	01403 822878
Spring Hill Trout Waters Albans Farm, Romford Road, Pembury TN2 4BB	07951 304515
Tenterden Trout Waters Coombe Farm, Chennell Park Road, Tenterden TN30 6XA	01580 763201

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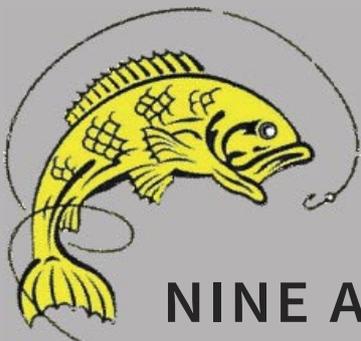
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Channel Angling 158-160 Snargate Street, Dover CT17 9BZ	01304 203742
Crowborough Tackle Shop 2, Lexden Lodge, Crowborough Hill, Crowborough TN6 2EG	01892 667671
Dens Tackle 73 Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6JN	01303 267053
Fishing Tackle & Bait Marlpit Farm Shop & Nursery, Wierton Road, Boughton Monchelsea, Maidstone ME17 4JW	07724 776031
Henfold Bait & Tackle Henfold Lakes, Henfold Lane, Newdigate, Dorking RH5 4RW	07956 043922
Hooked On Green Unit 2, Bellbrook Industrial Estate, Bell Lane, Uckfield TN22 1QL	01825 760139
Jack Frost Reynolds Place, West Green, Crawley RH11 7HB	01293 521186
Kent Tackle Hawkhurst Fish Farm, Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	01580 754422
NJ Tackle 150 Milton Road, Gravesend DA12 2RG	01474 353998
Orchard Tackle 58 High Brooms Road, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9DB	07494 670328
Pinions 431 London Road, Ditton, Maidstone ME20 6DB	01622 718580
Sevenoaks Angling 44 Seal Road, Sevenoaks TN14 5AR	01732 454952
Sheppey Angling Unit 5, Regis Business Park, New Road, Sheerness ME12 1HA	01795 661089
South London Angling Centre 286 Lee High Road, London SE13 5PJ	0208 852 4451
Sues Tackle Cabin The Spice Warehouse, Rye Harbour Road, Rye TN31 7TE	01797 225015 / 07980 290247
Tony's Tackle Shop 211 Seaside Road, Eastbourne BN22 7NP	01323 731388
Trade In Tackle Maidstone Road, Watlington ME18 5EH	01622 814296 / 07941 085011

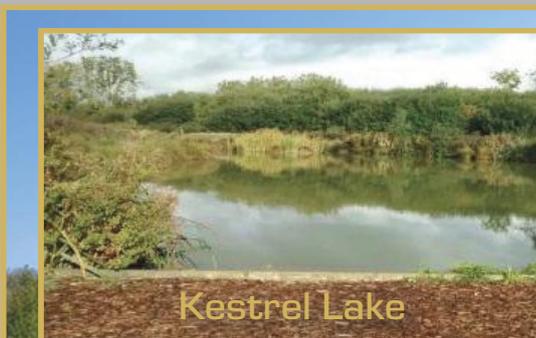
Angling Clubs & Societies

Bromley (Kent) & District AS PO Box 895, East Grinstead RH19 9ND	email: bdas-kent-enquiry@bdaskent.co.uk
Hastings Bexhill & District Postal enquiries to S.Corke, 2 The Sidings, Bexhill On Sea TN40 1RF	Chris Pagan: 07429 655237 / Steve Potter: 07935 268174
Linton Angling Society	Chris Knowler 07712 622858 or email: chris@lintonangling.co.uk
Teise Anglers & Conservation Society Membership enquiries to email: teisesecretary@gmail.com	Further information at www.teiseanglers.org.uk 07960 518738
Tonbridge & District A & FPS PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB	Martyn: 07802 248861
Wantsum Angling Association Rob Tuck – Brown (secretary) 07484 144561 or email: robtuckbrown@hotmail.com	



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