

plus SEA INFORMER pages 44-49

**KACIE COLVILL
and 'Molly'
at KNIGHTINGALES**

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

Let me begin by saying how great it is to be back to our original format! To say that the past few weeks have been busy would be an understatement! I made the decision to 'go digital' in June as it appeared that the cost of continuing to produce the printed magazine was going to be unaffordable. The July magazine went 'live' on the website in a fantastic new format providing a much easier to read experience. It was very well received and the visits to the Freshwater Informer website rose substantially.

However, in early July, I received a much more favourable quote for printing! A number of calls, well a lot actually, were made to gauge opinion on a return to the paper copy. The overwhelming consensus was yes and my fantastic advertisers have been marvellous with their magnificent support. I made an announcement on the magazine's Facebook page and readers were truly delighted! I was overawed by the huge number of comments approving of the paper copy's return to the shelves. Readers appeared absolutely thrilled and the shops and fisheries were delighted!

So here we are! The last paper magazine was produced in March, which seems light years ago now!

The work had been completed on the April magazine, but literally a couple of days before we were due to print, Boris, quite rightly, shut the country down. It was great news when restrictions were eased allowing fisheries to re-open and anglers visited the region's lakes, beaches and rivers in huge numbers. The Covid 19 restrictions meant that fisheries had to reduce the numbers of visitors accordingly and many imposed a pre-booking system to work within prescribed limits. In fact, many fisheries only allow anglers to visit if a pre-booking has been made. Frant Lakes and Furnace Brook, in particular, have booking forms on their websites.

The further easing of restrictions enabled our tackle shops to open, albeit with social distancing measures in place. However, our tackle shops have seen an unprecedented increase in trade with demand often outstripping supply of some popular items. I was truly delighted with the shops' increase in business as it provided a very much needed 'shot in the arm' after such a lengthy enforced closure. Long may it continue!

So all appears to be back on track once again! However, the Coronavirus will mean we will be living a 'new normal life'! I would like to once again thank the many advertisers for their wonderful and valued support in making the paper magazine possible once again. Please support the businesses involved in the magazine wherever possible.

Enjoy your fishing, Barry Reed

The Freshwater Informer

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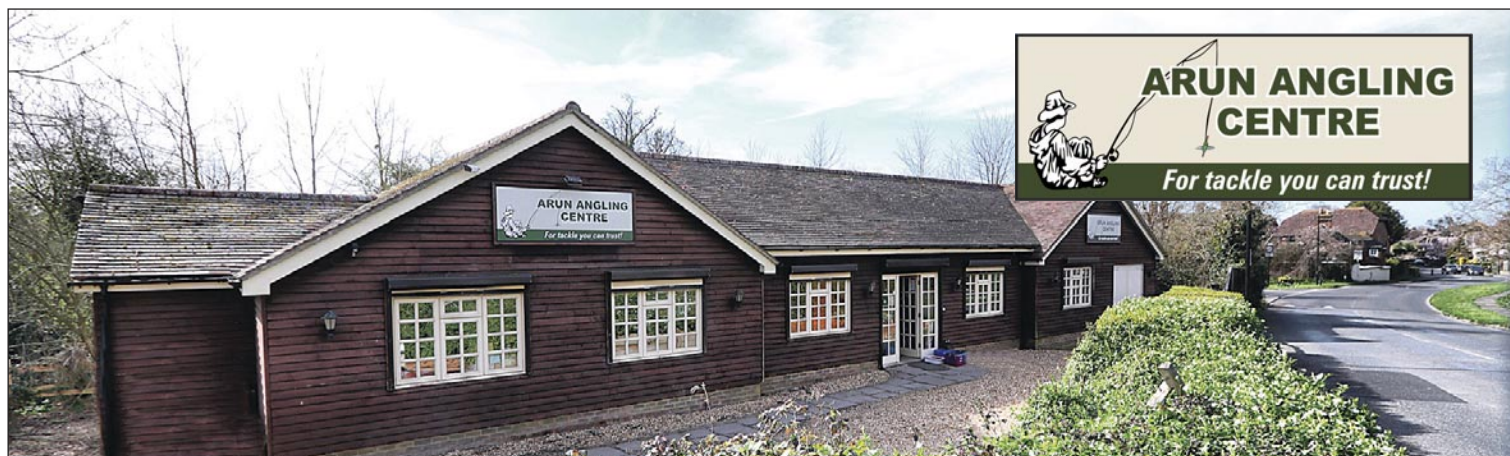


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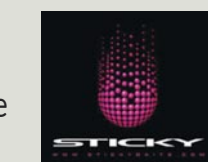
Arun Angling Centre was established in 1990 and over the years has grown into the biggest shop of its kind locally.

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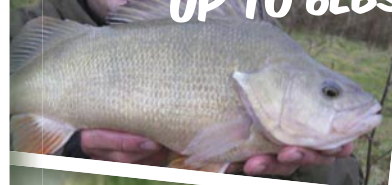


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Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

Hello everyone, we didn't think we would be writing this report for the paper copy of the Informer, but, we are very glad that Barry has managed to continue printing this great magazine.

This is the first written report since we re-opened after the world 'changed' due to the Covid-19 outbreak. If you have visited us already, you will know that Ben and I have been busy making sure that your stay with us is as safe as we can make it. Let's hope everyone pulls together and we can get back to some sort of normality! The fishing has been harder than usual as we have seen a major influx of anglers after lockdown which has seen more bait going in and with the hot weather some of the lakes/ponds have sometimes been tricky.

Snipe Lake



Scott Carter 30-03 PB - Snipe



Oli Doyle 22-12 - Snipe



Jamie Hughes 26-08 - Snipe



Chris Edland 37-01 PB - Snipe

has been producing plenty of decent fish and some PBs too. Here are some 'well done's'. **Ollie Doyle** had a 22-12 mirror, **Martin Cowdery** had a 22lb mirror on an overnighter, **Sam Howland** banked a 28-06 common and **Connor Ley** had a 26-02 mirror. **Chris Edland** had a 14-06 common and then beat his PB when he banked 'Hayley's Mirror' again, but this time going 37-01 for him! **Gavin Bryant** banked a 27lb common, **Daryl Rathbone** landed a lovely mirror at 29-14, **Tony Collick** banked a beautiful fully scaled mirror at 20-08. **Sam Sutton** had a 25-12 mirror, **Henry Coucha** had a common of 18lb and a 26lb mirror while **Sean Hindle** had a common of 18lb. **Craig Walker** banked a stockie mirror of 18-06. **Jamie Hughes** has proved he is learning the lake as he has banked a new stockie linear of 15lb, a mirror of 24-10 and a 26-08 common while **Scott Carter** had a great session when he banked both the small grassie at 19lb and then the big grassie weighing in at a PB smashing 30-03.

Tuscany Lake has certainly been producing some cracking cats and plenty of them. We can't list all the catches' so here is a selection. Well done to **Mark Brooks** who banked two cats at 21-10 and 51lb, **Gordon Noakes** had loads of cats to 44-08 while his brother had his first ever cats up to 43-02, **Pete Ellis** had 6 to 55lb, **Charlie Green** had 3 to a PB of 48lb, **Julian McConnell** had two decent fish at 51-02 and 60-04, **Martin Smith** had 9 cats to 39-04 on his first visit to us, **Daniel Latham** banked 7 cats to 64-04, **Jon Wilson** had his first 6 cats out ever to 25lb, **Mark Cooke** had two at 32lb and 40lb. **Mark Chandler** again had a great session when he banked 13 cats to a new PB of 57-03. **Ralf McCathery** thought he would have a go for catfish for the first time and banked three at 25lb, 37lb and 55lb while his mate **Danny Williams** had one at 51lb. **Chris Jones** had a couple at 38lb and 52lb, **Billy Looker** broke his PB a couple of times when he banked cats at 36lb, 49lb and then 60lb. **Pawel Lesniak** put his match fishing stuff away and went for the cats and banked 5 to 43lb and **Jeff Betts** has banked over 10 cats on mainly afternoon sessions to 49-04.



Mark Noakes 1 of a 14 fish session



Billy Looker 60lb PB



Julian McConnell 60-04



Mark Chandler 57-03 PB

Jeff's Lake as usual been producing F1's, small carp and some bream, but, like the other popular lakes on the fishery, lots of bait has gone in and that makes it harder fishing sometimes.

Moat Pond has been doing well with carp to 10lb being banked, a few bream and some nice crucians too.

Daughters Lake has produced quite a few fish, but mainly the new smaller stock of mirrors. Well done to **Alfie Player** who banked two small mirrors and a 9lb common, **Sean Mumbray** banked a low double mirror, **Andy Rowley** had a lovely linear mirror of 7-04, **Mat Sayer** banked a small common, a small mirror and a grassie of 18-02, **Kieron Lamb** had his first ever grassie at 17lb, **Keith Jeffries** had a low double mirror, young **Liam Champion** (12 years) won Fish of the Month when he banked his first ever grassie and a PB at 19-04, **Bart Greszata** had a mirror of 15lb and **Ricky** had a mirror of 16-03 and **Anthony George Bolton** banked a monster grassie at 23-04.

Eden Pond has, as usual, been producing some good catches of tench when the weather has been conducive to tench fishing. There have also been some carp to 7lb and a few bream banked to.

Maze Lake has seen many a new angler on the banks and some anglers are getting amongst the bream to 6lb and also the F1's that we stocked.

Majors Lake has, like Maze lake, seen a lot of new anglers coming to us and some nice fish have been banked. The anglers that hit the bream have been banking 15 or so at an average weight of 6lb, tench have also been banked to 5lb. Well done to **Andrew Martin** who banked a 12lb ghostie on a hot and hard day, **Lucas Tricker** had a 12lb mirror and a 15lb ghostie, **Sean Pritchard** banked a 15lb common, **Lawrence Tatler** had a few carp to 13-08, **Charlie Rogers** had a 19lbs mirror and **Nick Clegg** had 5 carp out on an overnighter.

Well done to all and sorry to those who weren't mentioned. Please don't forget to send in your catch reports and pictures.

PLEASE NOTE :- To fish Snipe Lake, Tuscany Lake or Daughters Lake, there are certain tackle requirements in force. Please call or visit our website at beaverfarmfishery.co.uk



Alfie Player 8-05 - Daughters



Anthony George Bolton 23-04 - Daughters

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

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 30.

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.

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PLEASE DO NOT TURN UP ON THE
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Visit www.frantlakes.com

and follow us on Facebook



Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hawkhurst, Kent

It's been great to welcome so many anglers back to our banks, with all lakes being productive if not slightly harder fishing at times due to the spells of high pressure we have been having recently. This hasn't phased our anglers though, as there have been a lot of awesome catch reports sent in; please see below for a small selection of photos. All catch reports can be seen on our Facebook page, just search Hawkhurst Fish Farm. You do need to book for all lakes (including day tickets) due to the current situation, but this does not apply to the Junior Lakes which are open 7 days a week from 10am to 5pm. Our café is also open 7 days a week, from 9am to 4pm.



22lb Common - Dove Lake - Steve May



23lb Mirror - Main Lake - Lee Smith



31lb 12oz Common - Specimen Lake - Steve Taylor



Four Trees Lake - Scott Ridley



25lb Grass Carp - Dove Lake - Scott Bullen



28lb 8oz Mirror - Specimen Lake - Julie Marston



25lb 8oz Mirror - Dove Lake - Sam Hamill



63lb Catfish - Dove Lake - Todd



23lb 8oz Common - Main Lake



Wes Tate - Quarry Lake 1

Gabriels Fishery Edenbridge, Kent

The last two weekends have been very busy with the tackle shop selling out of bed chairs, bite alarms and boilies, however, all of these items are now back in stock and available to buy here onsite along with other baits and tackle. The weather has been kind to us and while the sun is shining so too have the fish been biting.

A fish race was conducted by three families staying on our campsite. Each species caught gave one point. The **Janson Family** caught fifteen common carp and two mirror carp. They came third with 2 points. The **Bigwood Family** caught two gudgeon, five roach one rudd, one chub, and two mirror carp and one common carp. They came second with 6 points. The **Moore Family** caught one golden tench, five rudd, one jack pike, two common carp, 2 mirror carp, two roach, two gudgeon, two chub, one ruffe, one dace and one perch. They won the competition by using the lake complex and fishing with different methods for each species.

The **River Eden** proved very useful at this time as did **Silver Lake**, **Oak Lake** and **Hare Lake**. From the fish caught, I was very surprised that neither silver bream or common bream were included. Perch are normally caught frequently and only one perch was landed on the bank. The last two weekends have seen carp to 28lbs on the bank of Oak Lake and many happy anglers each reporting five and six fish caught from the teens and 20lb group. **Dean Taylor** caught a 14lb 3oz common carp. Dean says that Gabriels is the ideal place to unwind and relax.

Admiral Lake has been slower with large fish proving elusive. The smaller fish in the 30 - 35lb range have been coming out on the bank.

Barry Haynes caught a 30lb 3oz common carp. Barry says he is going into competition with his friend who caught Gabriels Fishery record in May 2018 of 44lbs 8oz common carp. **Good luck to the pair of you!**



Barry Haynes



Dean Taylor

Hawkhurst Fish Farm

Hastings Road, Hawkhurst, Kent, TN18 4RT
T: 01580 753813 E: info@hawkhurstfishfarm.co.uk



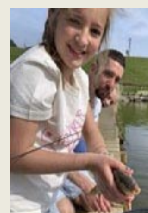
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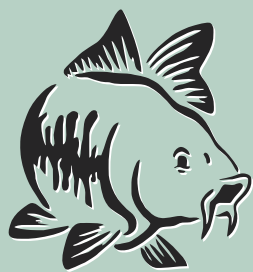
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Tricklebrook Fishery Five Oak Green, Kent

Our new lake and facilities are now open!
Tel: **07743 955812** to book and for further information.



23lbs 2ozs



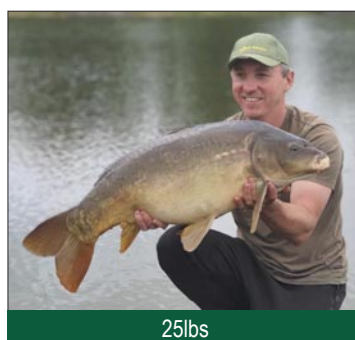
24lbs 15ozs



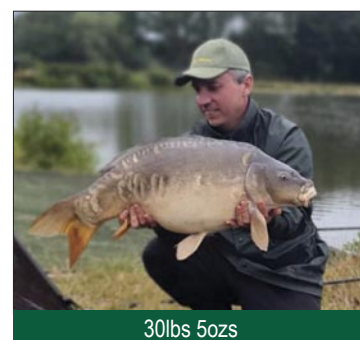
25lbs 4ozs



25lbs 10ozs



25lbs



30lbs 5ozs

Claygate Lakes Claygate, Marden, Kent

Lake Amy pop ups and zigs working, along with chicken, yes, chicken boilies!

Lake Eva some of the bigger carp have been out on robin red or cherry boilies. Don't forget the bread for off the top in the afternoon.

Lake Sophie pleasure anglers have been having 30lbs of silvers along with their carp. Maggot, worm and hemp working well, as are prawns.

Guests are allowed and are charged at £5 per person. Night fishing allowed on all lakes. We are finding that lake Eva has become very popular with couples returning to night fish this lake. We offer free shower facilities for anyone fishing over 24 hours.

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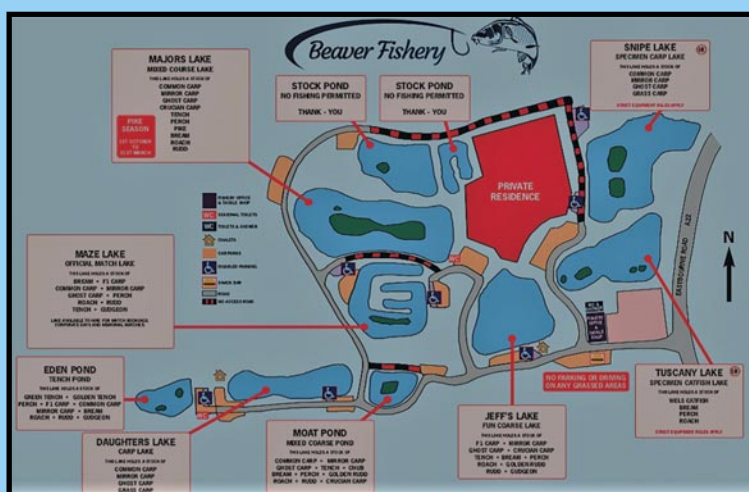


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LAKES:

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

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

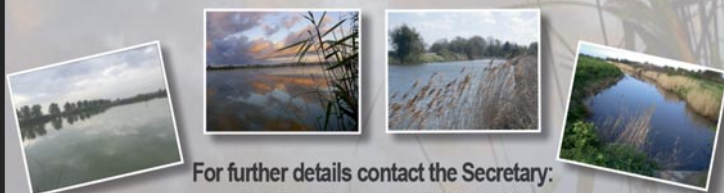
Night Fishing (24h): Adult - £25 with loyalty card £20

Juniors - (as for Day Tickets)

Night fishing: Only by prior booking.

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

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For further details contact the Secretary:

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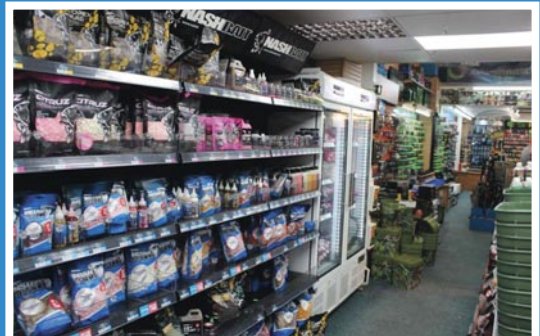
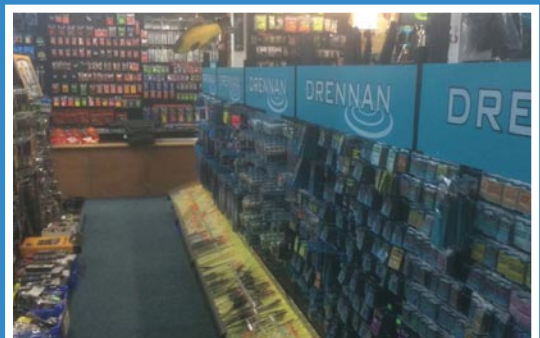
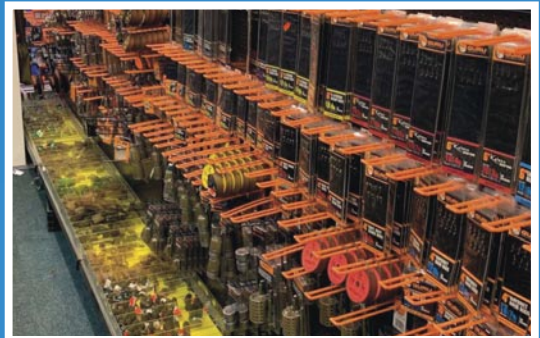
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Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society

Barden Lake The carp fishing has slowed up since the long spell of high pressure turned up. Some carp have been caught and the lake has been very busy. Some notable bream captures have been reported, **Ellis Titheridge** had a lovely 11lb 12oz specimen and **Stuart White** also had one of 11lb 14oz. Some excellent roach fishing as well with samples to just over 2lb. **Jeze Martin** and his daughter **Eva** had some crackers to 2lb 2oz.

Old Ballast Pit The Pit continues to fish well with fish to just over thirty pounds being caught and lots of the 'stockies' coming out at high double figures. There have been large bream, some good tench and a few big eels of late. Again, this has been very busy due to the good fishing on offer. **Gary Wilson** had a productive session, catching several nice carp and a big tench. **Rikki Whiting** managed to catch his first carp from the Pit which weighed 15lb 8oz.

The New Lagoon Although the water level has dropped and water temperature is high, the fishing can still be superb with some great catches of tench to over 6lb. Bream to 6lb+ also being caught plus a few carp to 5lb+. Some visitors have fished with maggots and caught roach and rudd to over 1lb. **Richard Cole** caught a PB tench of 5lb 5oz. Junior member **Dominic Windsor** also caught a nice tench of 4lb. Another junior member, 13 year old **Maddie Hawkins** who was part of a very popular family ticket, caught some lovely fish including a 7lb 6oz mirror carp and a stunning 6lb 12oz tench which has been recorded for the annual specimen Cup.

Haysden Lake The fishing has improved of late with some reports of roach and bream being caught on a regular basis. Feeder tactics proving best for the bigger fish.

Longfield Lake A very popular water recently as our Flood Barrier night ticket sales have proved. Reports of some stunning carp being caught to 28lb. Large bream also showing regularly to the anglers targeting the carp. Some reports of tench to 6lb+ also reported.

Pippins Farm We have had an increase of anglers visit this lovely little pond of late, as it seems to throw up a few surprises, including some large chub and very nice roach to nearly 2lb.

Weirwood Another popular venue for the pleasure anglers, with bream to 7lb reported, perch to nearly 3lb and lots of mixed silvers. A few nice pike have also been caught dropshotting for perch.

River Medway Since the river season started, it has fished very well right through our sections, as our match results prove. Four matches running, the winning weight has been over 20lb. Some great catches of roach being reported around the Sportsground, New Cut and Hartlake. **Pete Groombridge** had a nice mixed bag of around 15lb in an evening session. There have been some very nice carp caught from the river recently, including a lovely common just shy of 22lb caught by **Kevin Miller**. Junior member, **Amy Maxwell** and dad **Chris** fished Ensfield Bridge with small lures to tempt 4 nice chub and lots of tiny perch. **Dave Ellis** took his grandson Noah to the river and he caught some perch and a few roach and is now well and truly hooked. **Julian Groves** and son **Matthew** had a session of summer piking on the river and were well rewarded as Matthew caught a nice 11lb 8oz Pike.

MATCH RESULTS:

PADLEY BOWL - BUNGALOWS

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

CHAIRMAN & COMMITTEE CUP - SWANMEAD

1st Colin Fowler 7lb 2oz
2nd Martyn Hill 5lb 11oz
3rd Pat Galpin 4lb 4oz

WEDNESDAY EVENING MATCH - SPORTSGROUND 4 Hours

1st Sean Pope 7lb 8oz
2nd Alan Leigh 7lb 0oz
3rd Martyn Hill 5lb 4oz

RE STOCKING CUP - CEMEX DOWN

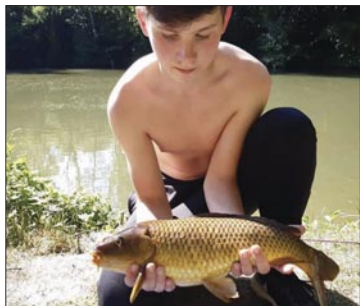
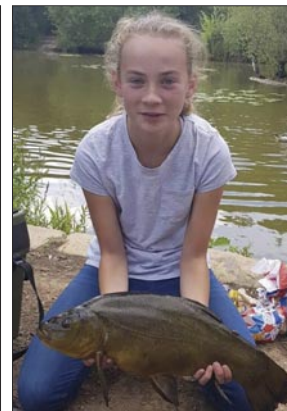
1st Ray Berry 29lb 6oz
2nd Ray Allen 12lb 12oz
3rd Mick Smith 10lb 4oz

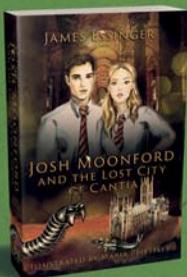
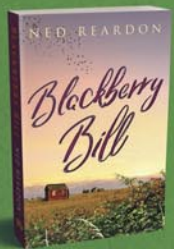
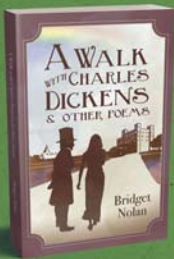
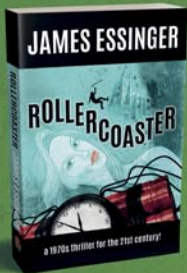
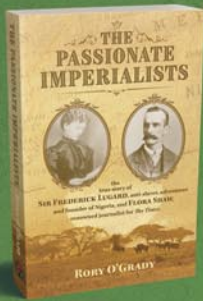
LAKE & RIVER MATCH - HAYSDEN

1st Mick Smith 13lb 7oz
2nd Martyn Hill 7lb 14oz
3rd Lee Wakeman 6lb 6oz

ABREY & TIBBETS TROPHY - NEW CUT

1st Austin Battell 21lb 13oz
2nd Pete Groombridge 12lb 9oz
3rd Trevor Oldfield 7lb 9oz





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As James explains: 'I've always loved books about angling and how they communicate the thrill of the art and practice of fishing to readers. It's not just about the actual catching of the fish but about enjoying the beauty of the landscape and the water and I think books that communicate this excitement and sense of oneness with nature are infinitely worth publishing and reading. The Conrad Press warmly welcomes books on the subject of angling.'

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The Conrad Press is named in honour of the great Anglo-Polish writer Joseph Conrad (1857-1924), who spent the last years of his life in the village of Bishopscourt near Canterbury and is buried in Canterbury.

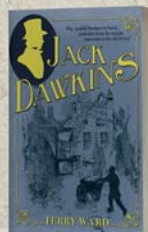
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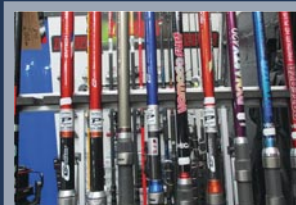
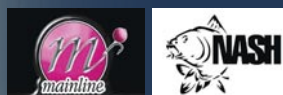
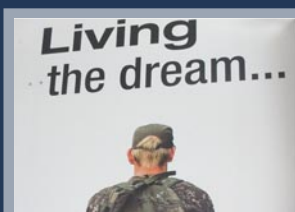
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I am delighted that the paper copy of the magazine is back and I will be resuming the subscription service once again! I realise that the recent changes brought disappointment, especially among our many magazine subscribers who are unable to pick up a copy locally.

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

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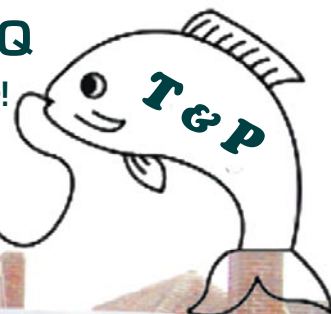
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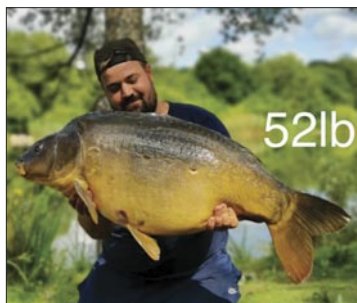


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David Barron 42lb 8oz - Pullens Lake 07.20



Ellie May Surridge 31lb - Prairie Lake 06.20



Lee Mangold 34lbs - West End



Lee Mangold 37lb 8oz - Pullens Lake 07.20



Matt Schoffham 34lb 4oz - Prairie Lake 07.20



Mitchell Bennett - Pullens Lake 07.20



Nichola Osgood - Kettles Lake 07.20



Nichola Osgood - Kettles Lake 07.20



Nick Burrows - Pullens Lake 07.20



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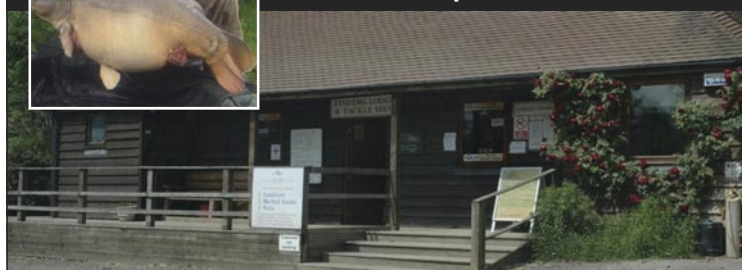
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We have had to remove all bins from our site and ask anglers to take rubbish home.

With the warm weather the catch reports across the complex have been fantastic with all lakes handing out new PBs to anglers



Andy Kemp



Paul - New Spec

Snake Lake has kept the angler busy all day long with reports of 20 to 30 carp within their session.

Field Lake has been very popular with dads and lads and some very happy faces after their day has come to a end with new PBs and lots of carp caught.



Chris - Middle Lake

House Lake is producing fish into the twenties with surface fishing and the odd fly fisherman.

Middle Lake has produced some stunning carp over the last month with reports of weights of high 20lb.

Kell Lake has produced some fantastic carp with weights of 30lb+ being reported, it can be a very tricky lake but very rewarding.

New Specimen Lake has produced carp in the high 20lb for many anglers.

Old Specimen Lake is still fishing well with all types of methods being used from the method feeder to surface fishing with reports of fish coming out in the high teens.

Maisies Lake The cats have been on the feed with cats being caught in the 50lb+ with the occasional carp being landed in the 20lb mark.

Rosies Lake Rosies has been very popular for the day ticket anglers and 24 hrs anglers with grass carp, crucians and the odd mirror being caught.



Jono - Maisies



Jay - Maisies



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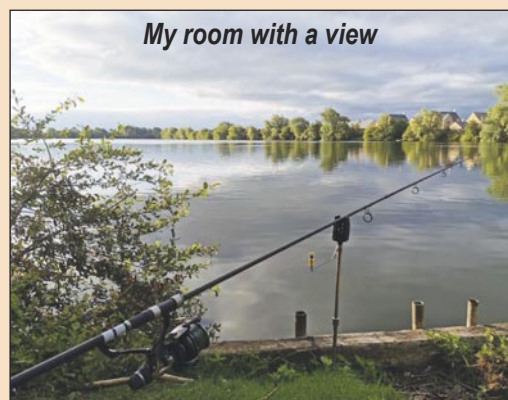
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Horseshoe hauling!

Firstly, it is great to be back in this latest edition and I hope you are safe and well in these challenging times. A positive is to see that so many anglers are out on the banks and enjoying some great action, which is just what our sport needs as participation now and going forward is so important for the longevity of angling.

The irony is many think that being involved within the angling trade means you get to do a lot of fishing, when that can be so far from the truth and the last two years has seen my bankside time dwindle! I love my work, but it is now time to get the rods back out before the rust sets in, simply put, I have had enough of not going fishing! It is my passion and has been for nigh on all my life so as I get older, I have made a conscious decision to get out a lot more and this next series is going to ensure that. Having chatted with Barry, and the fact it will 'force' me to go fishing more, we have decided on a series of features that will see me fish at different venues and how I tactically approach them for whatever species I maybe targeting.

So, to kick off I am going to cover my last trip of only a few days ago in the company of one of my angling buddies, Gary Baker. Gary has been a bit like me and not fished properly for a couple of years, so it was great to organise a trip knowing that we fish well together and enjoy each other's company, so much of what makes fishing such a great past time.



My room with a view

my 'sick mix' which is pre-soaked bait, in this case Pallatrax Crave (Plum, Wild Crab and Cranberry on a fishmeal base), which I then, using a food blender/chopper, break down into a finely chopped mix. I then add to this some sweetcorn, hemp, mixed particles and some Daphnia and Maggot Crush. This was christened 'sick mix' from the old days when we used spods and, on casting, you always ended up being covered, and during the heat of the day it would harden and smell like sick! Another great thing about Horseshoe is the facilities, so once you had finished it was easy enough to dive into the shower before starting to fish hard!

Nowadays, we have the advantage of baiting tools like Spombs, so getting covered is a thing of the past, but old names die hard!

Car loaded and a few hours later I arrive at the gates of the fishery with that tingle that always runs through me when returning to such a great venue. The memories that this lake holds for me over the past two decades have only been good; excellent fishing, great facilities, and nice people. Miles Carter runs the venue and in recent years he has added stock ponds to ensure the strain of fish go on into the future.

A short time later Gary's van turns into the car park and the all-important, especially with so much water to contend with, swim selection process starts. It would have been tempting to go into Summer Bay, the shallowest section of the lake, but having listened to Miles and his Team we went the opposite way and into the deeper water of Winter Bay. Fish had been caught from the deeper water and though it was a gamble we felt that 'gut' instinct pulled us to our chosen swims.



Stonze System ready to go

I'm all about fishing for a bite at a time and knowing we would be fishing into weed I went for the tactical approach of a 1.5oz running in line Stonze up to a buffer bead, which I then attached a 15lb braid hooklink of 5 inches. Hook wise I am a huge fan of the Gripz design and chose the Curve Shank pattern in size 6. I placed an inch of serious shrink over the shank and this gave me a shank extension of about half an inch. Bait wise I was going in with a Crave 14mm pop up which I counter balanced with a AAA non-toxic shot roughly 2cm under the eye of the hook. Far from complicated and a rig and set up that has caught me a lot of fish, especially when fished in the weed.

To add the 'cherry on the cake', I then wrap some Daphnia and Maggot Crush around the Stonze 'Method style' which contained extra dried Daphnia and a tin of sweetcorn.

So how does this tactic work? Well, you tuck the excess hooklink back into the method leaving just the hook and pop up exposed. I fold a slither of soluble foam around the hook to shut off the gape of the hook and to trap the hair which stops any chance of a tangle. I'd

hate to reel in and find that my rig is tangled and has not been 'fishing', so I do all I can to stop that and this soluble foam tip is something I would always advise. You cast this out and when it goes into the weed it leaves a trail of particles loaded with attractors for the fish to home in on and follow down to the hook bait which sits amongst a pile of food.

Once I select my spot, on this session I had chosen areas at about 15 wraps (or 180 feet) into open water, I will put out several Spombs of 'sick' and then cast my method ball atop of this carpet of feed and attraction. I am not using huge amounts of baits that will quickly fill up fish, but the design is all about the attraction and to get them grubbing around in the weed. There is an old saying about bait which highlights if you put too much in you can't take it out and, unless there are special circumstances, I have always gone with little and often and seek one bite at a time.



Horseshoe Lake is an absolutely stunning 63-acre gravel pit on the outskirts of Lechlade and on the edge of the Cotswolds. This famous fishery is owned by the Carp Society and in recent years has become a day ticket alongside those who opt for a season permit. It is renowned for some beautiful carp, but, also contains double figure tench, huge rudd and some cracking winter pike fishing.

Our mission was going to be targeting the big carp that roam this large expanse of water and, being such a large lake with years of angling pressure, they are certainly not easy to catch! I'm lucky enough to know the venue well and many times we have had successful trips, though I have struggled when not on the fish, as they can be in your swim one minute and then gone in the blink of an eye.

As always, several days before venturing on such a trip I am 'prepping' my baits especially



Spomb loaded with sick



Method Mix laced with Sweetcorn

At Horseshoe it really can be a waiting game and to be honest after 24 hours of seeing no fish I was starting to wonder if I had made the right decision when suddenly, at distance, I saw a carp launch itself out and crash back into the depths. The heart leaps and the confidence surges knowing that if you see one there tends to be more and, if our baiting strategy was right, we could be hopeful of some action. One fish would do because, regardless of size, any fish from Horseshoe is a 'memory' fish!

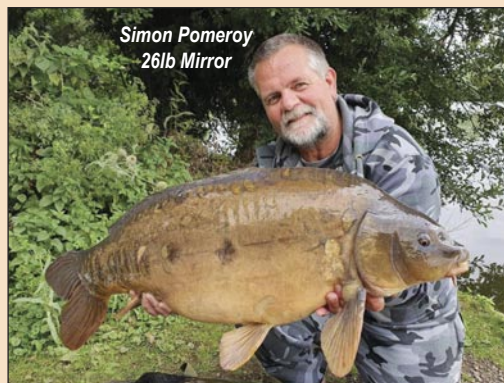
As night fell, I sat out under the stars with a steady stream of mugs of tea to keep me company as I listened for any movement and willing the shoal to come in closer. Though I heard the odd 'splish' in the distance, nothing had actually showed in my swim so, feeling a tad frustrated, I crawled into my sleeping bag and slowly drifted off dreaming of that screaming run and battle commencing.

From dream to reality as I was dragged awake by the sounder box chirping as the rod over my baited patch ripped off and my Shimano bait runner went into overdrive. As usual, I dived out of my bag forgetting to put on my shoes or grab the head torch – the excitement takes over even at my age!

I lifted into what was a powerful fish, definitely a carp, which was not going to be coming in easily that was for sure. Diving deep and stripping line, my heart was thudding and the adrenaline surging. "Keep the pressure on Pom. Don't drop the tip. Feel the fish through the rod and prepare for the fight ahead." All this drives through your head because that fear of losing your quarry sits on your shoulder and whispers into your ear!

As I am playing the fish, Gary appears out of the gloom saying he also has one in the sling, incredibly happy times! After several minutes the carp rolls in front of me, a fish that looked to go over the mid 20's but who cares about size as I scoop my prize – we're off and the fact that we have both caught makes the feeling even better.

'Lady Luck' was with us and, although the bites were hard to come by, we both worked our swims and were able to pull in the odd fish. We ended the session slightly sunburnt, but very happy. We had landed seven stunning Horseshoe carp including a beautiful 31lb 12oz



Simon Pomeroy
26lb Mirror

mirror for Gary, his first 30 from Horseshoe and very well deserved. A great session for the restart of my fishing, what more could I want than catching incredible fish from a top venue in the company of a good mate? Rest assured, my angling head is firmly back in place and with several trips already planned, the next being after barbel on the glorious River Wye, I'm sure I will be reporting back to you with some interesting tales going forward.

Until next time, stay safe, catch more and if you have any questions always feel free to contact me via e-mail.



Gary Baker
31lb 12oz Mirror

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

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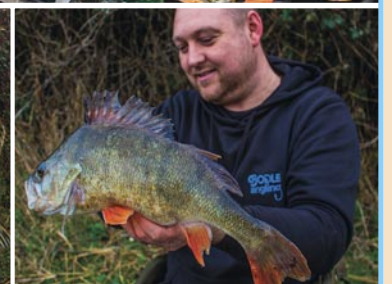
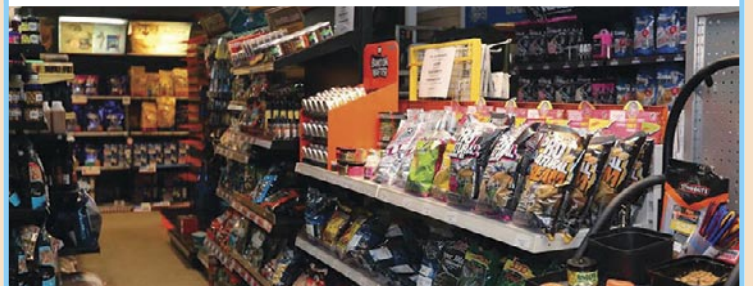
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Bank Holiday: Closed



check out our Facebook and Instagram
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This section is where you display your catch to other Freshwater Informer readers. Each month, Pallatrax will choose from the featured photos and pick their winner.

The winner will receive 8 packs from the innovative new GRIPZ hook range.

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

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



Gripz Fishing Hooks

After extensive research, where the limitations of both barbed and barbless were scrutinised, there has been an obvious need for improvement thus resulting in this radical design that crosses the boundaries between what we have had and what we now have. Made from high grade Japanese wire, the key improvement has been the introduction of a series of minute horizontal grooves on the inside of the specially designed arrow shaped hook point, where historically the barb would have been. These grooves allow the hook to hold securely in the fish's mouth when pressure is applied, as the flesh presses into the grooves resulting in a firm hook hold with no slippage. **What are you waiting for?**

Grab your rods and head down to your favourite water and remember to take your phone or camera!



Alex French 90lbs - Darenth



Dave Wayman 31lbs - Club Water



Marc White 76lbs - Darenth



Kev Finch - Linton AS Water



Jake Butler 3lbs - Furnace Brook



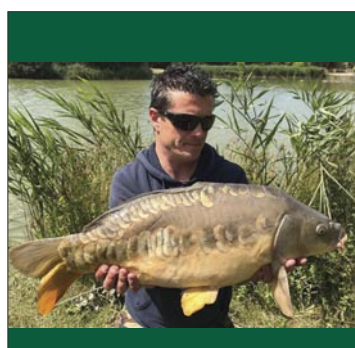
Connor Dennis 16lbs - Hawkhurst Fish Farm



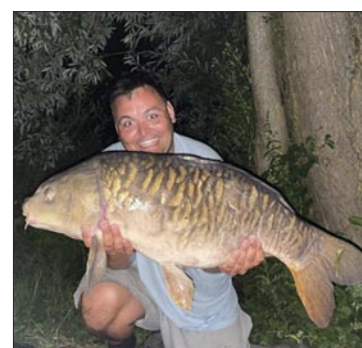
William Benningfield 26lbs - Horton Kirby



Vince Seviar 25lbs 7ozs New PB
- Paddock Wood Club Water



Terry Slatter - Members Lake



Terry Donovan 28lbs - Loggies



Shaun Croft 19lbs



Scott Kelly 38lbs - Darenth



Ryan Woods 32lbs - Knightingales



Ron Davis 25lbs - Hawkhurst Fish Farm



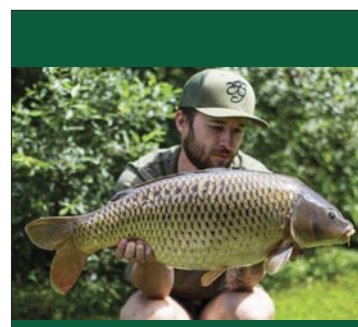
Rob Buckmaster 17lbs - Furnace Brook



Callum Lovejoy-Everest 22lbs - Tricklebrook



Bradley at Cottington



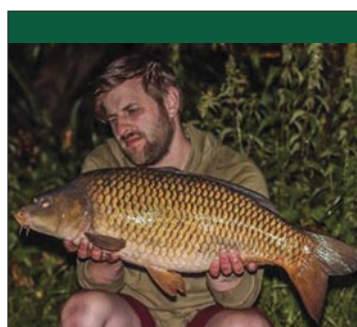
Colin Pullen



Daniel Barton 23lbs - Tricklebrook New Lake



Daniel Taylor 28lbs - Crowborough Club Water



Danny Pullen



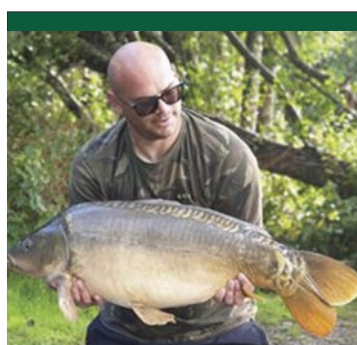
Paul Cook 24lbs - Sussex Members Water



Frank Mulley 31lbs 4ozs - Mousehole Lakes



Ian Crump



Jamie Skates 30lbs 12ozs
- Yateley at Sandhurst



Jo Crump



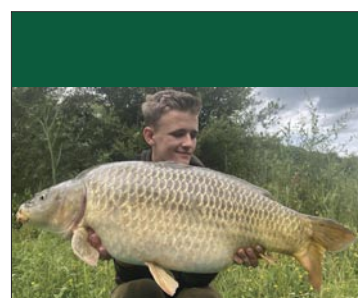
Mark Baker - Kent Water



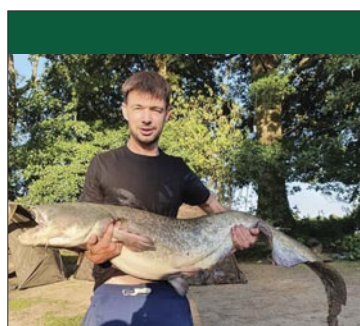
Mark Barrett 38lbs - Cottington



Michael Simmons 25lbs
- Sidcup Syndicate Water



Jack Wood 30lbs - Members Water



Nick Tsalikidis 44lbs - More House Farm



Peter Killick 27lbs - Cottington



James Rose 30lbs Mousehole



Joe 'Birthday Boy' Darby 13lbs
- Hartley Lands

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FISHING

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Thank you to our Junior Informer Sponsors

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

It is great to be back with the paper magazine once again! Unfortunately, the Coronavirus meant that we were unable to produce the magazine for some time, but, once we were in a position to be able to proceed again, I was facing a huge rise in printing costs. This meant that the July magazine was produced and published as a 'digital copy' on our website and no printed magazines were made. However, I received a much better price for printing recently so here we are again, back on paper! I have had lots of people, juniors and adults, contact me to say how pleased they are that the magazine is returning in this way. Even in this modern world, everyone seems to prefer their Freshwater Informer on paper!

The Coronavirus has meant that many young people have not been to school for some time now. I expect the first few weeks seemed like a holiday as it coincided with Easter, but, I am sure many of you are probably missing your friends and the school routine now. However, it has been great to see lots of young anglers out on the banks and beaches fishing and many fisheries have been delighted to welcome family groups to their venues. This enforced break has also seen lots of anglers taking up the hobby for the very first time which is great news!

Don't forget to keep sending us your catch photos to put in the magazine! These can be sent via email or as a message on our Facebook page. However, please note that we must have your parents or guardians permission to publish your photos.

Business owners – I am always looking for sponsors for the Junior Informer section as it is this sponsorship that makes these pages possible for our young anglers. If you would like to show the angling community that you really care about getting young people fishing, please get in touch with us. All our contact details are at the bottom of the inside front cover. Thank you!

Many thanks to all the private donations made recently from magazine subscribers!



JUNIOR INFORMER PHOTO ALBUM

August 2020

is proudly
sponsored by



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



Billy Roberts 15lbs - Cottington



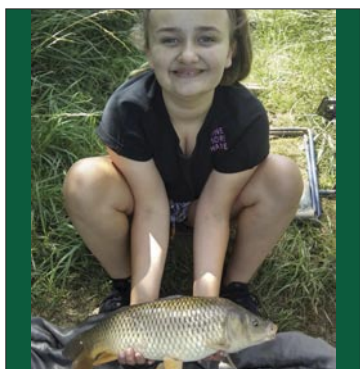
William Jones 7lbs 2ozs



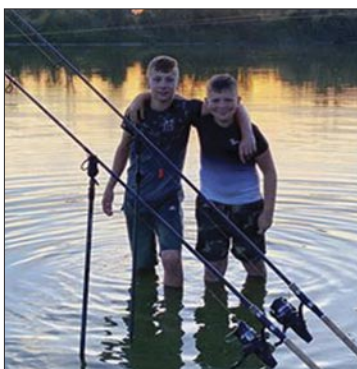
Christian Davies 10lbs
Stone & Island Dartford



Gemma Baker - caught on her birthday!



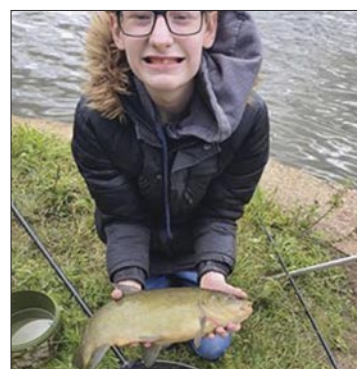
Grace Kent - Club water



Harley and Jude in France



Hayden Taylor 12lbs 1oz
Crowborough Club Water new PB



Jack Pentecost - first tench!

Each 'Ready, Steady, Fish' pack contains:

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

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



Jake Collier-Hesmer 3lbs - Tenterden



Jacob Diddams



Jessica Hurdle



Kelsey Fairclough 8lbs
Coombewood Fishery



Kyle Fox-Johnson 20lbs
Lovelace Fishery



Lola-Brooke Diddams



Louie-Martin Hartigan



Maggie Tofts 9lbs 2ozs New PB



Molly Talbott 15lbs Mushroom Farm



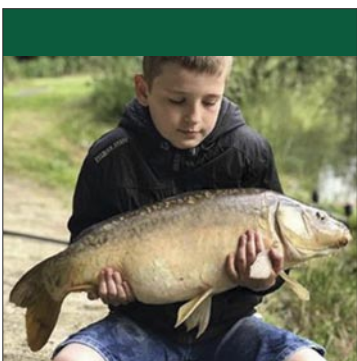
Oliver Crump 22lbs - Lin Wood Fishery



Reuben Drake 20lbs - Monk Lakes



Roman Richards aged 5
First ever carp at Stones Fishery



Rylan Kersey 14lbs - Edenbridge Water



Teddy O'Leary 18lbs 10ozs
Monk Lakes New PB



Chelsey and Noah Diddams

Fishing 4 Schools – August Tip of the Month

from instructor Rob Goble

August: and the heat is (usually) on; as a result fishing - in all its forms - can be testing.

No more so than when fishing for rainbow trout - a species not native to our country, having been introduced from the United States in the late 19th Century can, especially, suffer with the heat - from air temperature soaring, water temperatures escalating, and of course, oxygen levels depleting rapidly in lakes and ponds - and let's not forget, rivers and streams also.

Trout will tend to disappear to the depths to try and find cooler layers, even then, sulk and become less inclined to feed until cooler weather brings improved water temperature. Of course, it all depends on how long the heat remains. Trout - any fish - not feeding for any length of time can spell disaster for any fishery.

To combat this, a good many of our notable waters are reacting to climate change and installing some form of aeration system to help flow and, as a result, increase oxygen. Of course, there are a number of aquatic plants which produce oxygen; the drawback being that they produce oxygen during the day, that absorb and take it back during the night, but you have to try these things!

It is also the same with coarse fisheries. Whilst coarse fish, as we know, tend to be hardier and more tolerant of summer conditions than trout - carp, as we know, positively relish the heat - but even for roach, rudd and perch, there is a threshold and they can suffer and become lethargic in the heat.

Despite painting such a gloomy picture, trout can still be caught. Of course, you have to time your sessions. I have mentioned in previous issues of the Freshwater Informer, that early morning sessions can be best - and this applies to coarse fishing, as well. There is that saying: "the early bird catches the worm (or fish)".



However, fly fishers, do not despair! You can always turn your attention to carp on the fly! Carp always seem eager to feed on the surface - all you need are some dog biscuits, scatter or catapult a few around your intended fishing area - then using normal reservoir fly gear - 9 to 9'6" #6-7 rod, a floating fly line to match, a 9' tapered leader down to a tip of 10-8lbs b.s. and use a selection of (easily obtained) deer hair dog-biscuit imitations, not forgetting your landing net or unhooking mat, of course.

When fishing this method be mindful of other anglers fishing conventionally and importantly, ask the fishery manager or owners if it is ok to fly fish in the first place - most do, some do not. **Ask.**

One commercial fishery who help us massively with Fishing for Schools days, is Monk Lakes near Maidstone.

This superb venue allows the FFS team and the students full access to fishing for carp with fly - just so long as we ensure that we are as far away as possible from the conventional anglers so as not upset their tranquility. If you belong to a club, once again: **Ask.**

Salt water fishing at this time of year, can also be great fun, especially chasing bass with a fly rod. I am fortunate to live on the North Kent coast and have experienced some good sport. Try and fish either side of low water and an hour either side is best and when the tide will be at it's slowest. Fish though can be caught throughout, of course, but my preference is definitely is low water. With low water and by selecting periods of as little wind as possible, and a clear sea, I can wade out quite a way and not really get much deeper than just above the knee. I have to say, it is also refreshing to wade when it's warm the cool water

around your legs is lovely. I do have waders, but, these can get uncomfortable, so I tend to use a pair of shorts and good pair of surf shoes (You can get these in all Surf Board shops or online). My tackle consists of a 9ft rod for a #8/9 fly line - a floating line to match, some bait fish patterns, including sand eel imitations and some 12 - 9ft leaders tapering to 10-12lbs b.s.

One important item, is my line tray. The reason for this, is to hold my fly line neatly and importantly, out of the water, to be ready for the next cast.

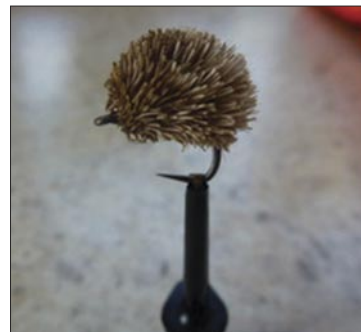
I know, in the picture of the line tray, the actual line looks a mess, but believe me, when I cast, the line will "zing" out and very rarely

tangles. It also stops the retrieved line from disappearing down the tide. Trying to gather all the loose strands, sometimes with weed, is a real pain!

The part of the coast where I fish tends to be quite shallow, especially at low tide and the bass do come close into the shoreline. There is also a good amount of "structure" - with rocks, weed etc; all of this is good holding ground for food. Bass, as a result, come in close! Whilst on the water you might think nothing will happen or that there are no bass in the area. Wait! Bass have a tendency to arrive in bursts, especially the school fish (11/2 to 3 pound range). You will not mistake the moment - suddenly the bass arrive, swirling and boiling and moving at phenomenal speed as they harass and pick off the bait fish as they burst through. The trick is to pitch your fly, as fast as you can, amongst them and then strip as fast as you can. You will miss a lot, but wow, when you do connect, you will certainly know all about it! Do not be fooled either, among the smaller fish there are invariably much bigger bass ...don't say I didn't warn you. Great sport!"

Whatever your discipline - have fun and stay safe!

Bob G.

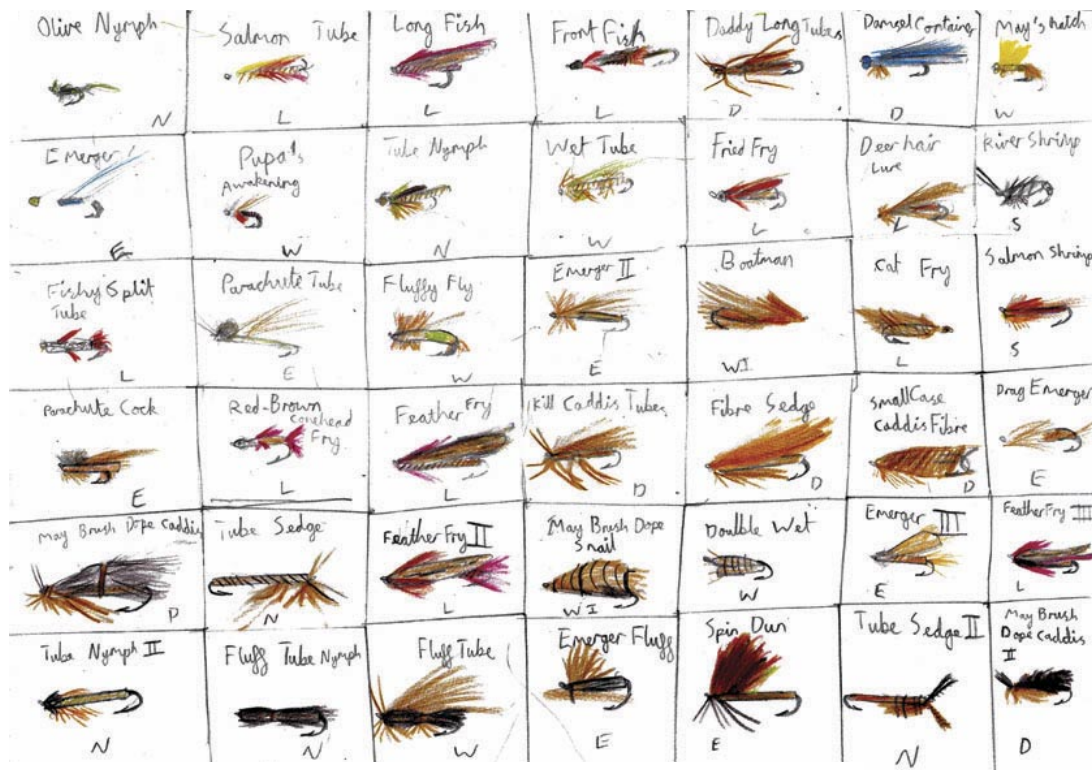


Edward's Got Talent! by Bob Goble

Bob Goble our 'resident' instructor drew my attention to Edward French who he met with his dad Peter during a fly casting lesson: Bob told us:

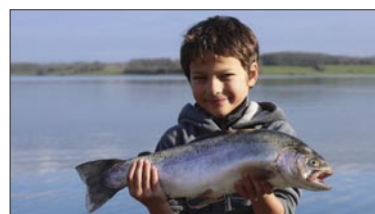
"I met Peter French and his son Edward during a fly casting session at Bewl Water and Peter told me about some of the fishing adventures he had enjoyed with Edward. They have had some great 'father and son' fishing trips together and it is so refreshing and a joy to read!

When I took Edward out for a session at Bewl it was for Fly Casting, but, I immediately could see that this lad had a passion for fishing. He listened and learned about many things and he did not stop for a second. In my experience of working with young lads, they often loose interest after a short while, but, not Edward, he just wanted to keep going! He has booked another session with me a little later as he wants to get his casting right, can you believe!"



"One of the photos is of Edward and the brown trout that he caught at Springhill, but, not only that Edward produced these drawings of flies, all this from his imagination and memory!"

Peter French told Bob: "Edward, who is currently ten, started fishing at Bewl with me from when he was six using a spinning rod. He enjoys the setting at Bewl and the freedom to find a quiet spot. His enthusiasm means he has never let me off with a less than 8 hour day and some of our biggest arguments are when I want to call it a day, but Edward wants to stay out longer! He started with a fly rod at nine and this sparked his imagination into designing his own flies (only on paper - he has no kit) as a way to relax. That was the first outing at Springhill and we were there at opening. We'd had no luck in the morning and so went home for lunch and returned back mid-afternoon. Both fish were caught within about 15 mins of each other at about 8.30PM in the evening on a Hare's Ear.



In case you are interested, here are some earlier Bewl pics. You'll also spot the pike photo at Bewl. Edward got that on a spinner without a wire trace when we went as a 'three' with my dad.

Kacie is the 'Queen of Carp'!

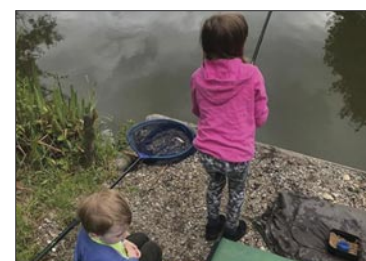
Proud dad Ryan Covill sent in this great report after some great fishing with daughter Kacie at Knightingales Fishery: "I took my little girl Kacie, age 10, fishing. She was in your magazine a couple of times last year, but, started carp fishing this year as she told me she wanted the 'big fish'!

I took her to Knightingales Fishery, between Tenterden and Rye. I had a massive chub of 5lbs 5ozs and a few carp and Kacie caught these beauties. Her biggest fish was 'Molly' caught at 26lbs 7ozs. Knightingales is a beautiful place with stunning views and the prices are very reasonable. Kacie's new nick name is the 'Queen of Carp' and she is loving it. We are off to East Delph next month to catch some special carp!" Many thanks, Ryan & Kacie



Jessica and George are back on the bank!

Darren Moore sent us this report from a recent trip out with Jessica and George: "I took the children fishing recently, the first time in a very long time. Jessica had three carp to 8lbs, but she wouldn't hold them as she said they are too small to get all smelly for! George also caught a lovely 8lb carp, a new PB for him and also had another three but lost one."

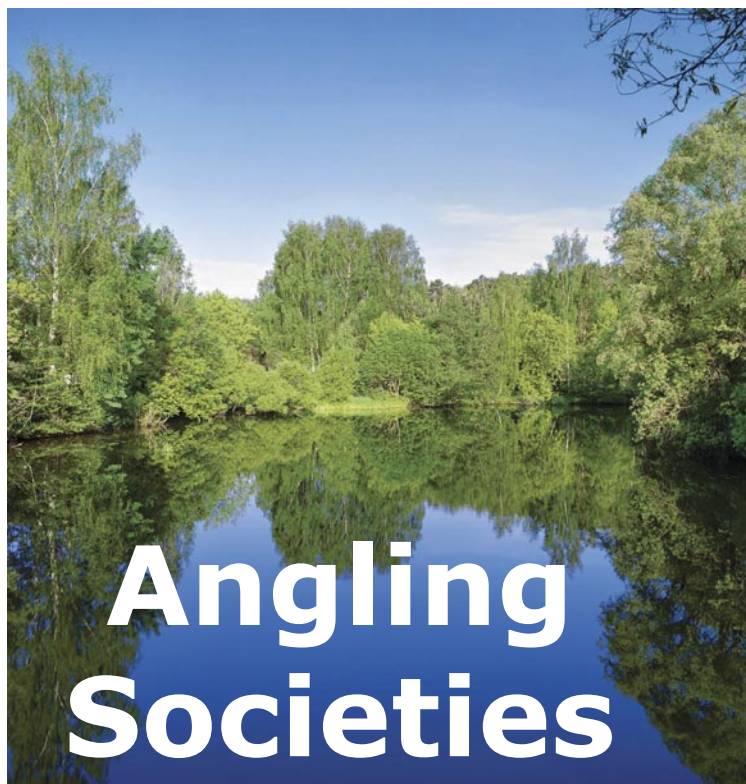


Fishing is a family thing!

Colin Etherington sent in this report of young Stan who enjoyed a great day out on the bank!

"This is Stan Etherington with a lovely mixed bag caught on a 3m whip to hand! Fishing Valebridge Mill Pond on the Haywards Heath and District ticket. "Stan is a super keen angler and wants to go everyday" - bless him. A "chip off the old block" friends are saying!" Fishing must be a family trait in the Etherington family!





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



Hastings Bexhill & District Freshwater Angling Association

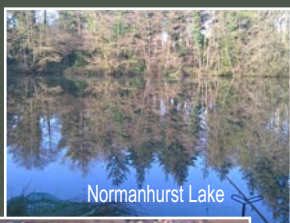
Season runs from 1st April to 31st March.

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

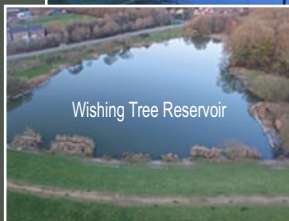
We currently have seven waters that provide a mixture of species at specimen weights to suit all anglers' preferences. As well as the lakes run by the association we also offer members the ability to fish various stretches of river in the surrounding area.

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

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



Normanhurst Lake



Wishing Tree Reservoir



River Rother

For further information please contact:

Chris Pagan 07429 655237 Steve Potter 07935 268174

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

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SOUTH NORWOOD ANGLING CLUB

SOUTH NORWOOD ANGLING CLUB (CROYDON AREA) WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO JOIN OUR FRIENDLY CLUB.

We have a very good stretch of approx. one mile of the River Eden near Chiddingstone holding Chub, Pike, Silvers, Bream, Tench and Carp.

The club has an agreement with Gabriels Fishery near Edenbridge for a reduced rate of £2 for one rod per day.

We also have the privilege to fish 3 well stocked lakes and various stretches of the river Eden near Oxted and Haxted. Upon joining more information, maps and membership card will be supplied.

Adult £35 : OAP £10 : Under 18 £10

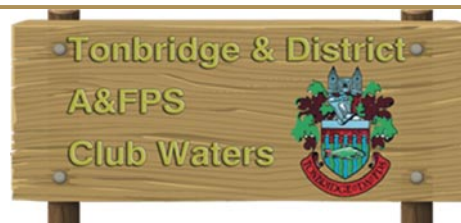
Thank you for taking the time to read this and if you wish to join please contact us for membership details.

Mr Steve Izatt

282 Kent House Road, Beckenham BR3 1JG

email: stevezatt@aol.com

Tel: 0208 778 0168



14 miles of River and 7 Lakes containing:
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Also large Roach and Rudd to 3lbs and large eels.

MEMBERSHIP FEE 2020/21 SEASON

Senior Membership – £70 + £10 Joining fee

Ladies Membership – £30 + £10 Joining fee

OAP 65 years – £35 + £10 Joining fee

Junior Members £10 + NO JOINING FEE

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

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

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

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

PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB

Contact Martyn on 07802 248861

River Informer

Welcome to the August River Informer!

It is a pleasure to be back with the River Informer once again! The last paper copy was in March so, at that time, everyone was preparing for the Closed Season. Since then, not only did we have the Closed Season, but, a pandemic as well! Thankfully, life is beginning to assume a form of normality and the rivers are well and truly 'open for business' once again. Despite the very low rainfall in Spring and early Summer, our waterways have held up pretty well. I received some excellent reports from anglers who ventured out soon after the 'Glorious 16th', many of which featured in the July digital magazine. Please do send in your river catch reports for this section by email or as a message on our Facebook page.

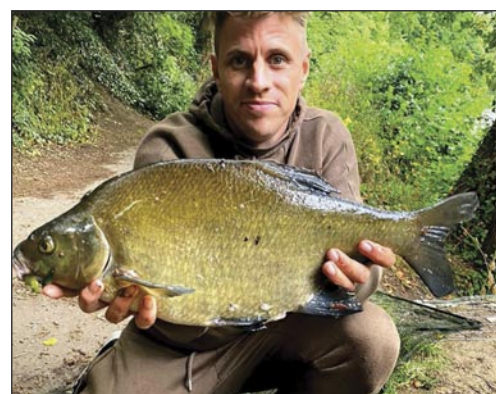
Medway comes up trumps for Daniel and Jason!

Daniel Terry sent us this report following another great session on the Medway with his fishing buddy Jason Blackman:

"I had another cracking day/night session for bream recently with my friend Jason Blackman on the Medway. The sizes of the fish were a lot bigger on this trip. The

weather was nice and overcast with bites coming every cast after baiting up the area and within an hour it was non stop. There was a tad more flow because of the rain, but, we still managed to hold up in an area of slack. There was a moment of silence when all bites stopped for half an hour which we both thought was weird and that maybe a predator had come into the area and we were right! I struck into a strange few big taps and landed a nice jack pike which gave me a good little run around on the feeder rod. We are hopefully back out again soon when this week's rain has stopped and it calms. What a session though!"

Tight lines everyone and stay safe, Daniel



Big Rother carp for Paul!

Paul Willis had this lovely 18lbs 8ozs carp from the River Rother. Paul described it as a 'brute' of a fish! A river carp is a special 'brute' indeed, well done Paul!



Stewart Allum - 4lbs 13ozs - River Eden



Bankside on the Sussex Ouse *with Colin Etherington*

To say that the month of July has been a bit strange for me is an understatement.

The entire month has been spent moving house and consolidating from a four bedroom detached property into a two bed semi. Consequently, I haven't had the time, or energy, to go fishing. However, plenty of my friends have done well and I've heard 'on the grapevine' that some lovely fish have been caught including barbel, carp, chub and bream. Interestingly, since the January floods, some carp seem to have managed to find themselves in the river. In my opinion, these are without doubt escapees from a local pond or lake. With the explosion of commercial fisheries over the last twenty years or so, it would seem this is a relatively common scenario that is happening all over the country. Personally, I'm quite happy to have these carp in our rivers and having enjoyed catching three on the opening day of the season, I'm



A lovely mirror caught from the Sussex Ouse on the opening day of the season

relishing the opportunity to target them more specifically. Several of my friends have also caught carp all of which have been mirrors, it is interesting to see how well they do in such a different environment.

The carp I've caught fell to standard barbel tactics and I've no reason to change my approach. Several people have contacted me through social media asking me how I manage to catch on a relatively consistent basis as they have struggled whilst fishing similar stretches and weir pools. I've given this considerable thought and would suggest that you take things right back to basics. I've been an angler for way over 40 years and started fishing the Warwickshire Avon back in the 1970's. In all honesty, I don't do much different now to what I was taught back in the day of being an eager teenager. A simple running ledger, whether a lead or a feeder, is always my preferred option. My hook length is fluorocarbon (Drennan 10lb)

and I use a suitable hook for the size of bait. If I'm fishing pellet then the bait is attached using a bait band or if pre-drilled, a hair rig. I tend to shorten my hook length if the water is coloured and lengthen it when the river is running clear. So, in reality, this is a very straight forward rig

that is nearly always cast with underarm for accuracy reasons. On some occasions, I will even just lower my baits into the water as quite often on the upper reaches of the Sussex Ouse the fish can be right under your feet!

Most people will agree that fishing to any feature can be productive and river fishing is certainly no different. Location of fish is absolute critical to your success and consistency so make sure that you cast your baits tight to the features that adorn the river. On most occasions I'm fishing tight to the far bank or near bank. I'm looking for likely holding areas such as a fallen tree or a deep hole. Weir pools are obvious magnets for fish and quite often you will encounter fish that are permanent residents. I've always loved fishing weir pools as do other anglers, consequently due to the amount of bait being introduced, the fish can be of a bigger average size too. Whilst fishing tight to these features, I'm fishing on the tip and I never engage my baitrunners, from the moment the fish is hooked I will need to turn the fish away from the feature which is quite often a snag.

Consequently, you do not want to give the fish any additional line that could see it reach the sanctuary of a snag. Always check the drag on your reel and have it so that line can be taken once your rod has taken a full curve and under pressure. The excitement at this point is incredible, your rod has hooped over and you've struck into a decent fish. The power of the fish can be felt through the rod and on most occasions, within the first five seconds, I can tell whether it's a barbel or chub. The focus now is to get the fish into the main drag of the river and ultimately to enjoy the fight and battle of the hooked fish.

I think it is very pertinent to mention that I'm not a one specie angler as I enjoy many different elements of the sport. I've found without question if you use a bait that can be picked up by a multitude of species then your catch rate will hopefully go up. Hence, so many people see me using lobworms. Now, lobs aren't cheap and a quality source is needed, but wow, in my opinion lobs have been responsible for saving many a blank for me.

To me fishing is all about getting a bend in the rod and enjoying myself and very rarely will I venture out without 20 lobs in a bait box. I'm also not adverse to using 3 lobs on a size 2 or 4 hook. If you are using barbless hooks then make sure that you have maybe some rubber maggots to hold the lobs in place. When I've had a good day on the river and had a mixed bag of barbel, chub and bream, it is normally due to having quality fat juicy lobs in my armoury of bait.

With the move now completed and both houses painted, I can look forward to fishing once more. Please remember that in the hot weather barbel can take much longer to recover than in the cooler winter months, so please handle them accordingly. Fish well and fish safe!

Tight lines everyone till next month. **Colin Etherington**



A lovely swim that enables you to simply lower your baits into the water.



My rig box and an assortment of feeder leads ... my advice is keep it simple!



The better the quality of worm the more attractive it will appear to the fish



A mixed bag of barbel, carp, chub and bream caught on two short sessions using lobs as bait.



Short sessions produced some nice fish!

Dean Creasey fished his local river on a couple of short sessions and had these two fine looking fish. The prime conditioned roach weighed 1lb 15ozs!



A worthwhile wait for Alan!



Alan Johnson sent in this report of a lovely 5lbs tench caught from the River Stour at Grove Ferry. Alan told us it is the first tench he has had from the river in 33 years of fishing it!



Lovely chub from the Beult

James Clifton had a few hours on Kent's River Beult and found some lovely conditioned chub, this being the best at 4lbs 7ozs.



Match results courtesy of Fred Brown

MAVER OPEN River Rother, Bodiam, Kent - 25 fished
Barry Chapman and John Gore continued their successful series of opens on Kent's beautiful natural venues. In very windy conditions, Fred Brown (South East Match Group) won comfortably off peg 1 by the dyke with a 15-6-0 mixed bag of roach, skimmers goustas, chub and perch on 9 metre pole with maggot over groundbait and hemp. The long journey was worth it for Steve Clarke (Maver Image) who had a similar bag at peg 3 going 9-6-0.



- Result:**
- 1st Fred Brown - 15-6-0 (South East Match Group)
 - 2nd Steve Clarke - 9-6-0 (Maver Image)
 - 3rd Kevin Dyer - 8-10-0 (Preston Innovations Delcac)
 - 4th John Gore - 5-12-0 (Maver SE)
 - 5th Doug Botley - 5-8-0 (Maver SE)
 - 6th Russell Chandler - 5-2-0 (Preston Innovations Delcac)

RIVER MEDWAY OPEN - Tuesday 30th June 2020
21 anglers fished in wet and windy conditions in the first of 6 midweek opens on the Medway at Barming. The top two weights came from downstream end pegs 1 & 2 with Tonbridge angler John Cooper on peg 2, edging Edenbridge's Chris King by 10oz to take the win. Only 3oz behind these two, on peg 38, came Doug Botley. John had a mixed bag of bream, skimmers and roach at 13 metres using double red maggot and caster hook bait.

- Result:**
- 1st John Cooper (Tonbridge) 10-0-0
 - 2nd Chris King (Edenbridge) 9-6-0
 - 3rd Doug Botley 9-3-0
 - 4th David Roberts (Medway Tackle) 8-15-0
 - 5th Fred Brown (SE Match Team) 8-13-0
 - 6th Steve Sanders (Preston Innovations) 6-13-0

MAIDSTONE VICTORY OPEN River Medway, Barming - 25 fished
Another 20+ attendance for the second of 7 midweek opens at a muggy, overcast river Medway. Match organiser Mick Roberts had end upstream peg 52 selected for him and caught bream at 13m on worm for a comfortable win. The chasing pack produced some very respectable weights with Tackle & Bates angler Steve Clarke, on peg 38, edging out Fred Brown (peg 13) for runner up, both anglers putting 13lb+ on the scales.

- Result:**
- 1st Mick Roberts (Maidstone Victory) 26-10-0 end peg 52 upstream. Bream at 13m pole and worm.
 - 2nd Steve Clarke (Tackle & Bates) 13-14-0
 - 3rd Fred Brown (SEMG) 13-0-0
 - 4th Kevin Dyer (Preston Innovations DELCAC) 11-4-0
 - 5th Paul Hamlyn (Preston Innovations DELCAC) 9-14-0
 - 6th Barry Oliver 8-14-0

The Golden Years of Coarse Fishing by Bob Rolph

Medway Boy!

I allude to Bob Morris's greater knowledge and success on the river in 'recent' years, but this month I delve right back to 1958, when, aged just 12, I started on the rivers of Kent after my apprenticeship at Keston and on the quayside at Polruan in Cornwall catching small pollack, mackerel and a 3 lb John Dory! That was the one fish that set me off on the fishing trail all those years ago!.



Bob aged 12 on the Medway

The little River Darent then the lower reaches of the Kentish Stour at Plucks Gutter and Grove Ferry, were my introduction to river fishing, before I fished the Medway at over 25 different locations along its 70 mile course.

My first river fish was a brown trout of 12 ozs caught from the weirpool at Shoreham on the Darent. From here and on a deep, calm stretch nearby, I had good bags of roach and dace trotting with worm or maggot during the school summer holidays of 1958. An 8 miles cycle ride from my home in Hayes, up past Keston and down to Lullingstone to the crystal clear waters of the river at either Shoreham or Eynsford, then on to Horton Kirby, were the prelude to exploring the muddier waters of the River Medway.

A one hour bus ride was needed to reach Tonbridge, on the 704 'Green Line' coach to fish for roach and dace opposite the famous 'muck stream'. The bus dropped us kids off outside the old Bull Inn in Tonbridge High Street, where I seem to remember we

popped in to obtain our 2 bob (10p) day ticket! Long since gone the Bull Inn, also the gas works and Tonbridge Brewery around which we walked on the high towpath bank towards Canon Bridge with our Efgeeco tackle box, canvas groundbait bucket and rod holdalls. It was the smell which I remember most about those days; the gas works and brewery had their own distinctive aroma as we trudged the mile and a half to our chosen swims. We crossed the old brick Canon bridge which was washed away in the great flood of August 1968 and turned right along the towpath and across an open field to the swims opposite the hallowed 'Muck Stream'. An industrial estate now occupies that field, and a branch of B&Q on the corner site where a new Canon bridge now stands. The Muck Stream flowed under Tonbridge High Street as the Botany Stream, a branch from the sports ground arms.

Sometimes we walked as far as Eldridges Lock if all the swims were taken by the Muck Stream, but in those days it didn't really matter where you fished, the roach, dace, perch and bream were always there, mainly in the slacks. Not to mention the enormous gudgeon which always squeaked when they were unhooked! The Muck Stream was just downstream from the slipway of Tonbridge School Rowing Club and on the same side of the river. This was also a good spot to fish if the swims we wanted were too packed. The Botany Stream becomes the Muck Stream after it passes under Tonbridge High Street and comes via the sports ground island. In my day, few boats used the river like they do today and I can just recall seeing the last of the barges travelling up to the gas works or brewery near Tonbridge Lock which was the limit of navigation in the old days. Tonbridge weir held some good pike, but woe betide if you were caught trespassing on the Lock which was manned by river board officials who checked your tickets every day! The Tonbridge Club bailiff also did his rounds on a regular basis!

I built a trolley so we could camp and fish at Eldridge's Lock 3 miles downstream during the school holidays, where the night fishing for bream and eels was outstanding. The fishing by the mouth of the Muck Stream was at its best during the

summer months in the 1960s and swims were taken by 7am most mornings. June 16th of course was the start date, but the roach fishing excelled right through until October. Bags of fish up to nearly 1 CWT (50kgs) often adorned our three huge nets by sundown, roach up to 1 1/2 lbs, dace to 1/2 lb, small bream, perch and gudgeon. The proven bait of choice was stewed wheat or hempseed and the roach went mad for it after heavy groundbaiting in the area. We brewed it all at home in our mothers' saucepans until the little white bit split open, none of this flavoured stuff that you get today in jars and tins!

Heavy groundbaiting with Pomenteg, bran and mashed bread brought the fish into our swims and we fished with a fluted float and size 16 hooks a couple of rod lengths out.

At night during the weekends, we also fished in these groundbaited areas, catching good bream and eels, on worm mainly on the bottom. We encamped to the old wartime pill boxes, or set up tents on the grassy Lock side areas, fishing for roach during the day and bream and eels at night. Dozens of kids like us did the same and we were quite happy with roach to 1 lb, perch to 2 lbs, bream to 3 lbs, eels to 4 lbs and the odd weir pool pike up to about 9 lbs. Never did we see a carp or tench, unlike the many 20 lb carp inhabiting the river at Wateringbury today. Barbel were unheard of and large chub were quite a rarity, unless we fished the Beult! But that's another story!



Bob aged 15 with some of his early captures from the Medway

We fished for quantity, not size or quality and many a time the keep net was so full of fish it was impossible to lift. The specimen bug did not bite until 1964, when all this 'tiddlersnatching' became a thing of the past! I must have caught thousands of fish during my school days, just from the Medway, only 20 % needing the net, I should have been a matchman! In fact, I did enter some matches at that time and did very well and the trophies I won still look down at me from the bookshelves in my study.

One lock and weirpool we fished was the disused Stoneham Old Lock downstream from Brandbridges, near East Peckham. Camping here was eerie at night and was a long way from any roads. We used an old clinker dinghy that we obtained at East Peckham and rowed down from there on a Friday evening! Eels were our main quarry here, with pike on plugs from the weir pool during the day. In later years I took up boating and owned a 26 ft cabin cruiser moored at Hampstead Marina in Yalding. Many times I took my grandchildren up and through this Lock en route to overnight stops at the Meadows, fishing from the back of this craft for roach and dace. This brought back memories of fishing on the Medway 60 years earlier.

The river between Yalding and Teston around Watlingtonbury now holds some very big carp and barbel, but 60 years ago it was Teston weir and Lock that I had many pike on plugs and spinners. During the big freeze of 1963, I actually walked on the river in this area and fished through holes in the ice with worm to catch large roach which were still feeding in the water beneath! Above Tonbridge, the river split to form the Sportsground island below the weir. Very narrow swims beside bankside trees produced good bags of roach and perch from beneath floating weed rafts, on float fished hemp and maggot. The weir above The Shallows was also a favourite haunt before it was all dredged and the weir rebuilt in the 1970s after the great flood of 1968. Pike and chub were our most successful quarry here in those early years, then barbel began to show further upstream at Fordcombe and Ashurst. Bob Morris of course will be able to tell of the great barbel fishing to be had here in the 70s and 80s. I was fishing Bewl by then and missed out on it all! I did have a few chub and grayling from the very upper reaches of the Teise around Goudhurst and on the River Eden, but others like Alan Baker are far more experienced than me and I am not qualified to write on such matters !



*Night catch of Medway Eels and
Bob's first ever eel of 1lb 14ozs aged 13*



More Medway catches from 1959



Weekend camping trips upstream from East Peckham were a regular feature of our school holidays in 1957-63. We fished most of the 11 Locks and weirs on the river, the weirs mainly for pike. In the days before the Tonbridge bypass bridge was built in 1971, the reach above the weir was a great area for large bags of roach and dace on hemp and wheat, trotting in the concave bends in the river where the water was deep and slow. The Tonbridge A.C. Waters, Barden Park Lake and the Ballast Pit were also a favourite of mine before I knew much about carp fishing. These are now I believe part of the new Country Park around Haysden Water and still controlled by T & D .A.C. and producing good fish, according to the reports in this magazine each month! The numbers of fishermen on the actual Medway these days is a fraction of the numbers who used to fish for the roach and bream 50-60 years ago, yet the river is still packed full of fish, but it is not the 'in' place to fish these days, except on match days. The boat marinas at Watlingtonbury, Yalding and East Farleigh all hold large stocks of carp which can be spied on the surface on a hot sunny day in summer if the water clears a bit. My friend Alan Baker can vouch for this with his many captures over 20 lbs.

I think my favourite stretch of the river is that below Teston weir and going up to West Farleigh, near Barming, where on many occasions I have witnessed dozens of kingfishers in the overhanging trees on the south bank near Court Lodge Farm. I fished this reach long before the new canoe shoot was built at Teston Lock, and before the water park car park ever charged! I hooked and lost a huge fish here once on my size 18 hook to nylon and double maggot, probably a barbel, but I did return later in 1964 to capture a fine chub of 5 lb 2 ozs, probably my best fish from this wonderful river where I learnt my fishing all those years ago!

Bob Rolph



Having said in last months (online) issue that I was enjoying some aspects of the lockdown, mainly the peace and quiet of the countryside, I have now experienced what appears to be the flipside of the coin, due to the relaxing of the restrictions. This has meant that many more anglers are able to fish, and have the time to fish, due to the furlough scheme, and have been taking advantage of it - getting out on the bank in much larger numbers than usual. This, of course, is good news for angling and the angling trade, but not for those like me - who seek relative solitude when fishing.

Several of the venues that I had intended to have a go at this Spring / Summer have just been too busy for me to contemplate - especially where a longish journey is undertaken, only to arrive and find that ten of the available twelve swims are already taken, usually by the 'bivvy dwellers'. As I rarely do long sessions these days and regard even a single overnigher as a bit of a



Bob returns a decent perch from the quiet lake

marathon, it is not surprising that some of these waters, often popular with carp anglers, are not an option for me at the moment. I don't fish commercial fisheries for the same reason and find that these days it is often difficult to locate a lake that offers some peaceful tench/bream fishing etc, without the interference of the 'Carp Juggernaut' in some way or another. Although this might sound a bit critical, I have to qualify it by adding that I do realise that the carp scene is now the backbone of freshwater angling and it is certainly largely responsible for the continuing support for the tackle trade / industry - albeit far too over-competitive and squeezed these days. One of the reasons that I like river fishing is that it is still usually possible to get away from the popular areas, if you don't mind a bit of a walk, and find somewhere to fish in relative peace and tranquility - without fear of regular interruption.

I have found though, that if you are prepared to seek out still waters that don't necessarily hold large fish or large stocks and therefore don't appeal to your 'blood & thunder' carp and specimen hunters, then you can almost put the clock back and enjoy some quiet time at the waterside and, sometimes even surprise yourself with your catches. I don't dislike carp fishing, it is just the whole 'Carp Scene' that I find overpowering these days and often difficult to get away from.

To give an example of how prominent this pressure can be; I was fishing alone on a lake a couple of years back, one that I thought was not really likely to get much attention from the serious carp fraternity, which would allow me to pursue my float and feeder tactics unhindered. I had not been there more than a couple of times and was really getting into my tench fishing this particular morning when a car pulled up close to my swim and a couple of guys approached me.



Jim Bends into one on the (former) quiet lake



Bob feeder fishing on Medway



Bob's Feeder set up



26lbs 8ozs from the quiet lake mentioned

The preliminary polite introductions were dispensed with in favour of the opener "Ere mate, woss the carp in ere like?" Fortunately, I knew little about the carp potential there at the time and so was only able to give pretty general info about numbers, size etc, which did not seem to get their juices flowing. They left after a good look around and I never saw them there that year. I went on to have some excellent fishing for the tench and perch (although no monsters) all on the float, but during the process of learning about the water, my pal Jim and I contacted quite a few carp and ended up fishing for them, ending up with a fairly impressive season's tally - including fish to over thirty pounds. All of this with the water almost to ourselves, apart from one or two general anglers.

It was not really that long ago, but I would never go near the place these days, as it has become like 'bivvy city' and what had been a relatively wild environment with small, intimate swims between bushes and reeds, now boasts a healthy number of large, box fronted monstrosities and a special gravel path all the way round for the carp boys to push their trollies/barrows around. I heard one of them refer to it as 'well pukka' - each to their own, as they say, and rightly so - but count me out of this type of development!

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TROUT INFORMER

Tenterden Trout Waters Tenterden, Kent



Malcolm Collins - 3lbs 5ozs - Lake 2

The Summer is in full swing and we have all been enjoying it now that we have come out of hibernation. Our anglers have been delighted to be back on our banks fishing since we re-opened in May and they have been catching some quality rainbows. It has been great to see generations of families fishing with us, spending quality time together in our beautiful countryside.

We normally close the Fishery during July and August because fishing is always more challenging at this time. However, we have remained open this year because we are not hosting weddings this Summer due to the pandemic. The trout have gone deeper due to the warmer, bright weather and popular patterns have been Bloodworm, Montana, Damsels. For an up-to-date fishing report please go to our website and click on News/Fishing Report. www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk

Shepherds Hut Accommodation

We now have a charming Shepherds Hut which you can rent out on our Fishery with a beautiful view through the valley towards Tenterden Church. It sleeps 1-2 people and you have the full use of our Fishery Lodge with kitchen/wc facilities when you stay. It is a great place for a short 'staycation' and you will find more information on our website with a direct link to Airbnb for bookings. We are offering 20% off all our fishing permits if you are staying with us in the Hut.

For fishing permit reservations please telephone to book: 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 now open, but we are requesting that you bring your own refreshments/picnics. We are not hiring out rods, tackle, nets until we know it is safe to do so. Fishing

Lessons have now commenced with Richard Stokes, our Instructor, please email richard@coombe-farm.com 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 on the 20 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 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 or via our Facebook page – we will take your name/contact details and get in touch nearer the time. This event will be held outside and we are limiting spaces to 25.

When you visit our website you will find an Aerial Tour on our Home Page so you can view our picturesque Wealden setting. Please follow us on Instagram and Facebook and visit our Gallery. We are one of the Top 50 Stillwater Trout Fisheries in the British Isles 2019 and a Trout Master Water. Our Trout Masters Fish Off will be held on the 13 September 2020 and we look forward to hosting our Anglers at this Competition. 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 look forward to welcoming you to our friendly fishery in the beautiful Weald of Kent for some downtime this Summer.

Tight Lines – Gaynor, Richard & Audrey

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Fly of the Month

By Chris Reeves of The Fly Dressers Guild

I am delighted to welcome Chris Reeves of the Fly Dressers Guild to the Freshwater Informer. Each month, Chris will take a look at a pattern of fly and show you how to tie it!

THE HAWTHORN FLY

The Hawthorne Fly, latin name *bibio marci* is also known as St Mark's fly. It is a big clumsy terrestrial insect often found flying around beneath the bottom branches of large trees. Its poor flying ability makes it vulnerable to gusts of wind and they often end up afloat. Anglers will find them on the water from late March into early May. This year, 2020, was a particularly good year with most venues seeing large numbers of them, made all the more disappointing by the anglers being in lockdown.

Dressing **Hook:-** Short shank, wide gape, dry fly. This is a Partridge PWW

Thread:- Black 8/0

Body:- Black micro chenille

Legs:- A pair of double strand knotted cock pheasant tail fibres

Wing:- Pearl Crystal flash **Hackle:-** Whiting Pro grade saddle feather



1 Lay down a bed of tying thread, cover the shank with touching turns as far as the point of the hook.

2 Select a small piece of micro chenille and singe the ends with a candle or cigarette lighter by holding the end close to the side of the flame. Try not to set it on fire! This gives a more natural look rather than a cut end to the body. Tie the chenille in on top of the hook shank to a point approximately 3mm back from the eye. Leave plenty of room for legs and a hackle.

3 Tie in 6 knotted pheasant tail fibres as legs, 3 on each side of the hook shank. Ensure they hang underneath and behind the hook bend to closely imitate the natural.



underneath and behind the hook bend to closely imitate the natural.

4 The wing is an important part of this imitation. I have used crystal flash, but you could use white Antron yarn or white floss as long as it doesn't soak up water. I took three strands of crystal flash and doubled them around the thread, then slid



the strands up onto the top of the hook shank and tied them down. Trim to no longer than the length of the body.



5 Select a saddle hackle and prepare the stem by stripping off the fibres from the side that will touch the shank first when wrapped. This ensures the hackle stands at 90 degrees to the shank for the first turn and that there are no trapped fibres facing backwards. Tie in with the shiny side facing forwards. Wrap about 8 turns of hackle until you reach the eye of the hook. Secure the hackle on top of the hook shank, this makes trimming away the excess easier.



6 Remove the excess hackle, fold back any stray fibres and create a small neat head. Whip finish and varnish to complete the fly.

The fly should be fished singly on a longish leader. I usually use around 10 to 12 feet, but would shorten this if wind was a problem and affecting turnover. Normally, the fly is fished static, but if fish show an interest but do not actually take the fly, try twitching it a few inches and then leave it static again. Ensure the tip of your fly line isn't sinking, many of the modern lines have a sealed tip with a built in loop but older lines with a cut end can absorb water and sink making striking more difficult and also sinking the leader a long way eventually drowning the fly.

For more information, please visit www.flydressersguild.org or my Facebook page Chris Reeves Fly Tying.

Brick Farm Lakes Herstmonceux, East Sussex

The lakes at Brick Farm really differ from each other in varying depths, area, natural shade cover etc and so it is great to have such a variety as generally fish will be coming out of one if not another. Spring Lake remains a firm favourite amongst many of our regulars as it has the depth to have much cooler water. The recent rain and cooler weather has helped and overall water temperatures are good for mid-July! We have had some particularly windy days, which have thrown everything, you would think that should be working into the air and literally blown it in every direction possible. As always, blue flash damsels prove a

popular choice for anglers (and clearly the trout too), as well as buzzers, nymphs and montana.

Our Saturday morning 5am early opening is proving to be very well received with several anglers catching before the usual 7.30am start. This will continue through the Summer months until the mornings start to be a little darker and cooler. We continue to be stocking the lakes every week which means there is always a good stocking level and it often livens up the fish which may have found some hiding spots.

Recent notable catches include Dean Baker who caught a stunning 6lb 3oz rainbow, Stuart Clarke who landed a lovely looking 4lb 13oz rainbow which was the largest of his 3 fish bag, and Sue Walker-Reilly, who prior to today, although has fished several times, has never fly fished who landed 2 fantastic fish weighing in at 3lb 4oz and 4lb 4oz! Mike Shine landed a lovely 4lb rainbow which was part of a 4 fish bag totalling 11lb caught on buzzers and damsels.

Coaching has proved popular recently, both for those wishing to brush up on their casting as well as those wanting to learn how to fly fish altogether. Pictured is Liam Harris with his first trout weighing in at just under 2lb. It may not be huge but we were thrilled we got to share the joy this young lad felt landing his first ever trout!

All the best, Danni & Phil



Dean Baker - 6lb 3oz



Liam Harris first trout - 2lb



Sue Walker-Reilly - 4lb 4oz



Stuart Clarke - 3 fish

Chalk Springs Arundel, West Sussex

Hopefully, you have all made it through the Virus fit and well! Here, at Chalk Springs, we have so far been clear of illness and long may that last. We re-opened the fishery on the 13th May and had many anglers wanting to fish after being closed for seven weeks and it was so good to see them all. There have been some really nice fish taken and there are lots of smiling, happy anglers leaving the fishery at the end of the day. Unfortunately, we are not opening the lodge at the moment or the weighing room and gutting area as per government requirements. We are introducing some nice browns, rainbows and blues. We will also shortly be stocking Tiger Trout and spartics in addition to our normal stock fish so watch this space!

Chalk Springs is fishing well for the most part and still producing some really good fighting fish as you would expect from us, with the warm weather the lakes are still maintaining cool water due to our many springs. We hope to see you all soon! **Stay safe. Nick And Ally**





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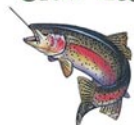


Tel: 01323 832615

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Email:

teisesecretary@gmail.com

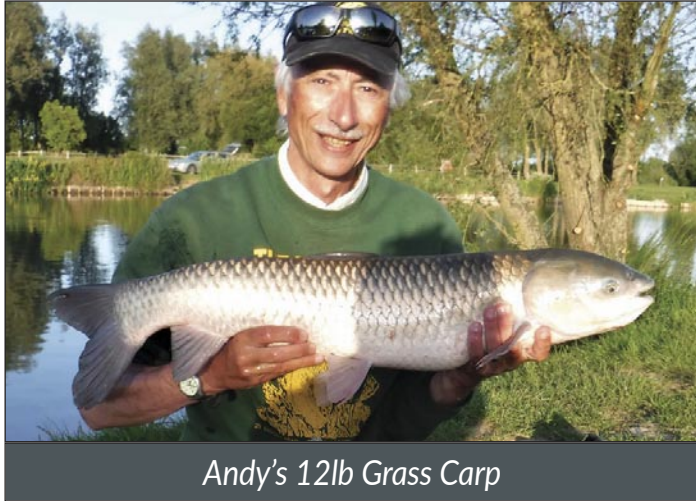
Telephone: 07960 518738



Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman

The dog days of summer

As any trout angler will tell you, July and August are the worst two months for fishing so I often switch species at this time of year.



Andy's 12lb Grass Carp

Mushroom Farm – Hailsham BN27 2RJ

I returned to this popular fishery for an evening's carp fly fishing. The Mushroom Farm (Falkenvil Fishery) is perfect for the fly angler as there's lots of room, it has plenty of easy casting swims and very few overhead obstacles to avoid. On my previous visit, I struggled to sink my co-polymer leader line in front of the fly. If I could see it on the surface from 20 yards away I was sure the carp could too. I tried de-greasing the line with Ledasink, an abrasive paste that takes the sheen off the line's surface which allows it to break through the surface tension to sink just sub-surface. Well it should, but didn't! This is a re-occurring problem I've been experiencing so I added a short 18" [50cm] section of fluorocarbon which is denser and definitely sinks. This worked, but I had to be alert to the fact that this sinking "tippet" would drag my floating fly under the surface after a short while and foul hooking then becomes a real possibility. Sometimes I wonder if the fish appreciate the efforts we go to in their pursuit. I struggled on and finally managed a couple of fish including a lovely double figure grass carp.

Return to Mushroom Farm

Another short session as much to try my "doctored" sinking paste as anything else, I'd added some finely crushed gravelly soil to my paste, as it was to catch carp. I fed a mixture of 6mm and 11mm floating pellets. It didn't take too long before I had a few regular visitors to my swim. Despite my best efforts, I couldn't get my leader to sink, doh! The carp were avoiding my flies no matter what I tried. I saved my blushes though by catching two fish as the light faded, but my floating leader problem persisted. Exasperated by my inability to sink my leader, I asked advice from a fly fishing Facebook group. This led me to making my own leader sinking paste, a mixture of Fullers Earth, glycerine and washing up liquid. I've used this a few times now and I've had to add a lot more Fullers Earth subsequently to get it abrasive enough to rough up the lines surface, but it's much better, however, it's still a "work in progress".

Lakedown – Burwash TN21 8UX

Last month, I wrote about a successful trip that James Gardner and I had when we fished Lakedown trout fishery. I gave a "blow by blow" account on my Facebook page which prompted Charles Jardine to contact me. Charles asked a few questions about the fishing and the new management at the fishery. He was keen to see for himself having not fished there for several years. A hastily arranged trip was planned, we were eager to fish before the current heatwave saw the action coming to a grinding halt. Our mid-week trip saw me arrive bright and early. I thought the best conditions would be first thing in the morning and I wasn't alone in thinking this. I didn't imagine 26 anglers would have the same idea, nor did I expect so many of them would arrive so early either! I caught up with a lot of my old shop customers and several Bewl regulars. I hadn't expected to see so many familiar faces, but the word was out that Lakedown was back and the fishing was spectacular.

Charles was late, so I elected to fish the top lake, opposite the lodge where the wind was angling into the bank. I could fish while keeping an eye open for "the man" to arrive. Finally, Charles arrived and we decided to mooch around all four lakes. We expected the fish to be deep, but the previous day's rain and the morning's overcast sky saw a few fish breaching the surface. I couldn't see what they were taking and more importantly there was no pattern as to where the next fish would show. I made a bold decision and tied on a CDC Hopper, an emerging dry fly pattern. I cast into the light ripple letting my fly drift back towards me. I just retrieved the slack line leaving the fly "static". A few casts later and I changed to a more buoyant Davy McPhail Bibio Hopper. My plan was now to twitch this fly occasionally as I slowly retrieved it; my thought process was this would grab the attention of any cruising fish that I believed were circulating just sub-surface. When fish are very close to the surface their window of vision is extremely narrow, by adding a little movement I was hoping to alert them to my fly's presence and it worked on the very first cast! Buoyed up with this early success, I persisted. Unfortunately, I couldn't back this up with another fish on this tactic. Charles will be writing an account of our trip in 'Fly Fishing & Fly Tying' magazine so I can't say too much more. All I can say is he succeeded using an unusual tactic that was completely different to my own approach.

Return to Lakedown – Burwash

After my mid-week trip, I was keen to return to Lakedown, but before I left home Jim Letham, a Bewl fisherman, messaged me asking for some advice about fishing there. Jim and his son Tom were going there for the first time that very morning. Having given him the "heads up" I said I'd look out for them so we could compare notes.

I walked past my favourite lake 2 and headed straight to Lake 3. There's a long finger bay on this lake that stretches out along the valley, the opposite bank is overhung by trees and bushes. This quiet area had a few resident fish patrolling along the bank in the shade of the shrubs. Occasionally, I would see a fish as it swam a couple feet below the surface hunting for food. I "stuffed up" my first couple of casts as I excitedly tried to intercept one of these fish. I was using a variety of small, 12-16 bead headed nymphs, but getting the sink rate right was vital. Too fast and the fish ignored it, too slow and they didn't see it. I managed to trick one fish with this tactic on a size 14 Gold Head Pheasant Tail. A nice 3lbs rainbow, I spooned it so I could examine its stomach contents which revealed several miniature Corixa water beetles. Later, I bumped into Jim and Tom, they were having a wonderful time and Tom had "trumped" dad by catching a 4 1/2lb rainbow on a home tied fly! Well done young man.



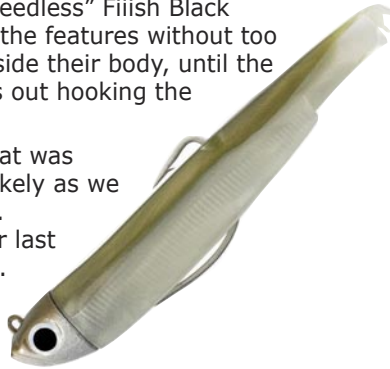
A cracking Lakedown Rainbow

Newhaven

I got the call I'd been hoping for from Mark Bryant, inviting me to join him for a leisurely afternoon's bass trip. We would be fishing inshore under the cliffs, casting "soft plastic" lures in amongst the boulders and into rock gullies. We were joined by Gary Collins, another of the "four amigos", Mark advised us to use "weedless" Fiiish Black Minnows, as these shads would allow us to fish close to the features without too many loses. These clever lures have the hook hidden inside their body, until the Bass bites it, then the body collapses and the hook pops out hooking the fish, simply brilliant!

I mentioned to Mark how I'd love to catch a wrasse if that was possible, never having caught one. Mark said it was unlikely as we had the 'wrong type of rocks' at this end of the Channel. I was disappointed after seeing his two super fish on our last wrecking trip, including an exotic looking cuckoo wrasse.

First cast and Mark hooked a schoolie bass, a few casts later and Gary was into fish too. The water was clear and I watched my lure swimming up through the water to the boat escorted by four or five school bass. A couple of casts later and I hooked a fish and could now relax and enjoy the fishing. We all had plenty of fish and a few missed takes until the tide slackened and the action finally slowed down.



*Fiiish-120-shore
Fiiish Black Minnow*



Tom Letham's 4 1/2lb Rainbow



Mark Bryant's exotic Cuckoo Wrasse

As we started fishing much deeper and slower we started, well I started, snagging up and lost a few precious lures. As they were Mark's, I felt a bit guilty so I rummaged through my hastily arranged selection of baits. I selected a 20g Savage Gear Sandeel, in pink! First cast and it was taken "on the drop" and what's more the fish was taking line off a very tight drag! Half way in and it was staying deep and the violent head shakes suggested it was a big fish. The rod buckled alarmingly so I eased the drag a little as the bass approached the boat. Mark was ready with the net, we got a fleeting glimpse of a long slender bar of silver before it made a final lunge under the boat. I quickly plunged my rod tip under the water to prevent my braid catching on the keel of the boat. Panic over and as she surfaced Mark scooped her into the net. It looked big, but a tad on the thin side, at 8lb 10oz I was very happy and even more pleased when she swam off strongly.**

Mark then hooked into a strong fish and after a good tussle, up popped a ballan

wrasse! Next fish, another wrasse, and then another! "So what was all this about the wrong type of rocks"? As the evening drew to a close we saw lots of swirls near the surface as a large shoal of bass worked their way along the shore. Interestingly, the seagulls were sitting right where the bass were feeding. Strangely, the gulls were not in the least bit interested in what was going on! Normally, when bass drive whitebait to the surface in a feeding frenzy, the birds get very excited, but not then, strange? The leisurely way the bass were feeding

suggested that whatever they were eating could not escape. The only things I could see that they could possibly be eating were very small jellyfish, about thumb nail size, that we saw drifting just sub-surface in the current.



Another feisty Bass for Andy

We got as close as possible to the shoal and cast a variety of lures with very little response. Often our lures were followed back to the boat, the water was that clear, but the bass were always several feet behind, curious rather than aggressive. We left and headed to another area on our way back to port. To add insult to injury Gary's final fish was, a ballan wrasse! I was the only one who wanted to catch one and I was the only one who didn't!

Til' next time. Andy

** I would have liked to include a picture of my super bass but unfortunately the background would have given away the location, schoolboy error!



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

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



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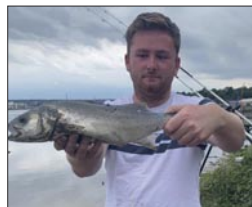
After the enforced break created by the Coronavirus, I am delighted to be back! As you may be aware, we were looking at going fully 'digital' due to a massive increase in printing costs, but, thankfully, we were offered a much more affordable price which has enabled us to go back to everyone's preference, the printed paper copy! The last paper report back in March, I was talking about Storms Ciara and Dennis! It now seems like years ago! I am absolutely delighted to welcome Channel Angling at Dover to the magazine as a new sponsor for the Sea Informer page. Thank you Craig, fantastic to have you on board and I thank you for your support. The current sea temperature around our coastline is around 17 degrees so almost bath temperature! The weed has been a feature to contend with, especially around the North Kent coast. However, the 'window in the weed' at the top of the tide has seen some good fish caught. The rays are still present in numbers and the average size of hounds is increasing as the bigger specimens usually follow the rest of the pack. The south westerly wind, which was strong and persistent in early July, saw a lot of colour in the water resulting in very few mackerel being caught from the beaches. However, the middle part of July was more settled and good numbers of mackerel were caught and it is hoped that August will hopefully see yet more settled weather and the mackerel remaining.

Thames report courtesy of Wayne May

There have been some fantastic smoothhounds caught this week from shore and boat, local angler Ben Long landed 20 plus on a kayak using hard back crabs, ranging in size from 6lb to double figures. Ben fished evening tides using the same method from the estuary beaches, managing to land 6 and 9 on separate nights. The charters are similar, with regular catches of smoothhound, thornbacks and bass. Gravesend is now producing a few sole, using ragworm. Further down at Greenhithe has been hard work, keeping the baits away from the crabs, perseverance pays off with regular bait changes, for flounder and a small run of eels, especially if you fish nearer the QE2 bridge. **NJ Tackle at Gravesend can supply all your quality bait and tackle. Call 01474 353998.**

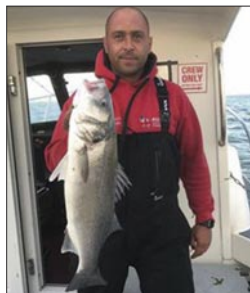
Medway report

Plenty of school bass being caught along the river with a number of eels. However, the crabs have been almost in plague proportions stripping baits before the fish can get a look in. Strood/Rochester has seen pouting, whiting some bass and the odd flounder caught. Further along towards Gillingham, smoothhounds have been caught and a surprise bream for Peter! Numbers of mullet are present teasing anglers, but very few caught! **Call Medway Tackle Supplies on 01634 475260 for your quality bait and tackle requirements.**



Sheppey report courtesy of Sheppey Angling

Evening tides fishing well right around the island. Catches consist of smoothhounds, bass and some rays along with few flatfish. Plenty of eels being caught around towards the Swale estuary. Boats continue to find some nice hounds and bass. **Call Sheppey Angling for quality fresh and frozen bait and tackle on 01795 661089.**



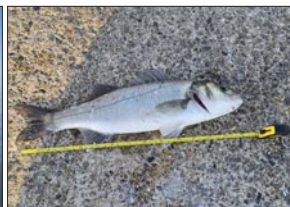
North Kent

The weed continues to be a major sticking point. However, some lovely fish have been caught during the window at high tide. Some good smoothhounds, thornbacks and bass have been caught from Whitstable along to Thanet.

Hopefully, the weed should begin to thin a little during the month. Crab baits for the hounds and bass and fish baits for the rays. **Absolute Tackle at Herne Common stock a good range of fresh and frozen baits and tackle. Call 01227 636724.**

Thanet report courtesy of Fisherman's Corner

Thanet has continued to fish well over the last few weeks. Although weed has become a problem on some parts of the North Kent coast, Good numbers of mackerel, scad, bass and smooth hounds have been fairly consistent in the clear settled water. Lures and feathers have played a big part for bass, scad and mackerel and hounds have been caught on lugworm or crab baits.



For any information about how Thanet is fishing, contact local tackle shop Fishermans Corner on 01843 582164.

Deal report

Although the pier is closed for fishing due to damage on the lower deck, plenty of fish have been caught from the nearby beaches. Bass, smoothhounds, dogfish, whiting, pouting and some mackerel have been making up catches.

Dover report

The Admiralty Pier remains closed to anglers, however, Craig Collins of Channel Angling is in discussion with the Dover Harbour Board at present. Shakespeare Beach has been busy with anglers catching mackerel, bass, scad, rays and some smoothhounds. Samphire Hoe is now open again and anglers have been having good sport with the summer species, mackerel, garfish, bass, pollack and wrasse. **Call Channel Angling Dover for all your bait and tackle requirements on 01304 203742.**

Hythe area report courtesy of Stevie Bates

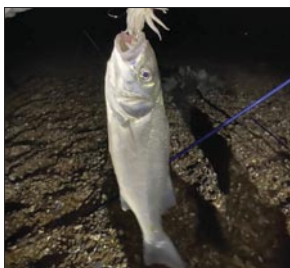
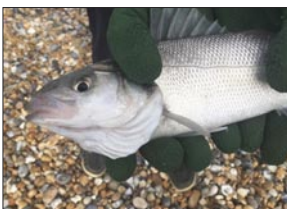
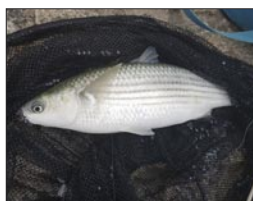
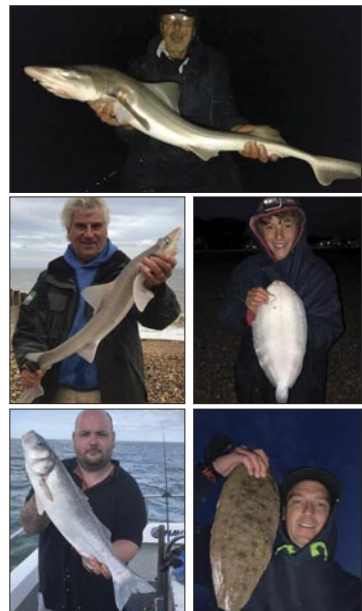
Sandgate, Hythe and Dymchurch has been fishing well, with some good reports of bass, thornback rays, plaice, the odd smoothhound, a surprise stingray and a nice strap conger. In the daytime when the water is clear, you can still expect to find plaice on the ebb with 2-3 hours after HW producing some of the better fish. On a cloudier day and with the water murky after a good South Westerly, you can expect to pick up rays and bass as they move within casting range. Big worm and fish baits should help you find them, but vary the distance of your casts. I have seen reports of mackerel showing over high water so always worth packing feathers just in case a shoal comes through. Evening through into night time will see you catch plenty of the usual suspects, whiting, dogfish, dabs, rays, bass and early sole. Baits and rigs doing the business: 2 hook flappers, clipped down rigs baited with fresh worm and tipped with squid or small pieces of sandeel and pulley droppers fished with bluey or whole squid will see you find plenty of fish. Please stay alert, keep safe, and stay well. Tight lines, Stevie.

Local tackle shops are Dens Tackle 01303 267053 and Best Buddies 01303 487144.

Eastbourne report courtesy of Tony's Tackle Shop

This month has been mixed fishing with big hounds appearing out of the blue on lugworm and rods steaming down the beach for some anglers, a great advert for fishing! Plenty of good sized sole being landed. Jay Blackmar caught a sole of 1 lb 14 oz in the Anglers Den specimen hunt. Gerald Sargeant caught a 9 lb plus ray from Splash Point up the road from the shop. The hounds will probably be going in the next couple of weeks which may give us time to repair peoples' rod rings! Black lug is the no 1 bait for the soles and crab for the smoothhound with blueys and sandeels for the rays. Rag is also fishing well from the shore and will catch most fish. Hundreds of mackerel showed up, as predicted, this month. Small Sabikis being the order of the day. The small 'joeys' have produced a few good bass which have been plentiful this month from Langney Point and Pevensey beaches. This month sees the start of the Tony's Tackle specimen hunt. This is a very laid back fun competition. You go fishing when you like over a monthly period. If you catch a big fish, come weigh it at the shop and the biggest of the named species wins money! It is only £10 entry which must be paid before you participate. We will be donating a reel to the comp! Eastbourne boats have done quite well this month with cod, pollack, plaice and thornback rays from the Light Tower area and bass from Beachy Head marks. There is a new charter boat in the harbour called TOP CAT.

Don't forget as things have not slowed down, to call Tony for bait orders on 01323 731388 or 07821 514853 or visit the website tonystackle.shop.co.uk
Tight lines, Tony Kirrage.





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SAM'S FISHING JOURNAL

courtesy of Sam Cox

One Sea Anglers Search for Common Sense! (Part One)

In today's society news travels fast, what you have caught on the beach can be read on social media before you have arrived home!

Woe betide those who are not familiar with the latest 'lingo' or up to speed in the accepted way to hold a fish for a quick photo. Hordes of 'keyboard warriors' it seems are sat at home, fingers at the ready, poised to swoop on any poor angler who dares to take a bass or two home for the table.

Unfortunately, it has in some branches of our sport become very unfashionable to keep any bass for the table. The loud voices of the 'Catch and Release' society, I feel, are putting in danger the rights of us who enjoy a common sense approach to our bass angling, where we keep a sensible amount of fish for the table over the course of a year. Before the rules came out, I would at times keep eight or ten bass in one session, then I might not keep any for the next few months. This was my common sense approach.

With the exception of trout, post WW2 UK culture has moved away from eating freshwater fish. A lot of us do, however, continue to still enjoy eating sea fish. Sea fish are a commonly owned resource, this means that the fish are owned by all of us. Sea anglers should enjoy equal rights as a commercial fisherman when it comes to retaining fish. Recreational sea anglers cannot retain bass in the months of December, January or February, but, In all the other months we can only retain two fish per day.

Commercial fisherman cannot retain bass in the months of February & March. Drift netting is not permitted. Commercial fishermen using fixed gill nets that are anchored each end so they do not move in the tide, cannot target bass directly. However, they are allowed an unavoidable 'by-catch' of bass and may retain and sell an annual limit of 1.4 tonnes. No legal definition of what is a 'directed/targeted fishery' exists in the legislation.

No monthly limit exists, other than annually 1.4 tonnes. So if a species like mullet are the said target and an amount of bass (bass and mullet often shoal together) collide with a net the vessel could theoretically keep 1.4 tonnes in one fortuitous red-letter day.

Commercial fishermen using hook and line can retain 5.7 tonnes a year, with no monthly limit. Data provided by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) shows only one UK vessel managed to catch in excess of 5.7 tonnes with hook and line so 99.5% of vessels using hook and line are effectively unrestricted. This is what commercial fishing leaders refer to as "sharing the responsibility of rebuilding stocks". Anyone who has had experience of hook and line fishing for bass whether recreationally or commercially will have experienced those once a year (if you're lucky) red-letter days when you locate a shoal of feeding bass and it's a fish a cast. Whilst recreational anglers can only retain 2 fish per angler per day, a commercial vessel could theoretically retain 5,700 bass each averaging a kilo each.

There are 10 Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) in England. The 10 IFCA Districts cover English coastal waters out to 6 nautical miles from Territorial Baselines and are tasked with enforcing current rules. These IFCAs are partly paid for by council tax payers. Due to the supposed effect on commercial fishermen's catches due to the wind farms in the Thames Estuary, compensation was paid by the London Array before they were built to help negate their supposed losses. Part of this deal was that no commercial fishing would be allowed in the wind farm area.

Last week, I was told that a commercial fishing boat was illegally drifting gill nets in-between the legs of the wind farm where bass were shoaling on white bait. I was told that the boat was seen hauling their nets which were full of bass. The local IFCA was informed, but seemed uninterested. There are many instances like this.

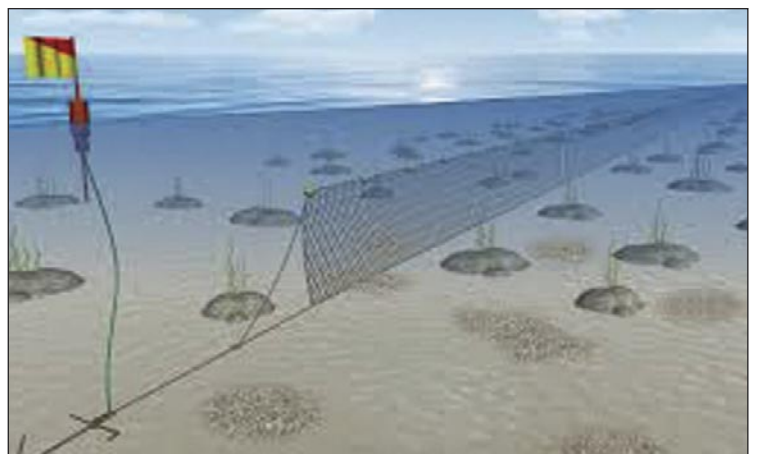
The commercial fleet can already retain so many bass legally that it does make the two fish limit on bass for anglers a joke as a conservation measure. Now sea anglers are under attack again, the June 2020 Benyon Review into HPMA (Highly Protected Marine Areas) threatens sea angler's rights to fish vast areas of the English coastline. Sea angling has been lumped in with destructive activities such as trawling, gill netting, drilling and dredging. Sea anglers also have no representation on the panel.

In the past, I have not been the biggest fan of the Angling Trust (AT), feeling they do very little for sea angling. However, they are under new management and have had some recent success alongside other organisations making DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) back down on its Covid-19 restrictions to the charter fleet. The AT is now attempting to sharpen its teeth and take on the Benyon Review. With this undertaking, the AT will require more than luck, they will need the support of the majority of us, UK sea anglers, backed by the angling trade and all other businesses that benefit from the revenue generated by sea angling.

Freshwater anglers pay an annual licence fee to the Environment Agency who look after the rivers and police the fisheries as well as stocking fish. Sea anglers do not pay an annual licence. To my mind, it is a good job that we don't right now, as we would not be getting value for money. Maybe there is an argument to be made for a sea angling licence, but until we get real, effective representation and our interests are really taken into consideration I shall not be in favour.

In 1990, commercial fishing licences were allocated free of charge to the over 10 metre boats in the fleet. In 1992, the under 10 metre boats were also given licences free of charge. As only the boats operating at that time were given licences, it gave the licenses monetary value. When a commercial skipper retires and sells his boat it is worth many thousands more than it would be without the licence. This money is not paid back into the Government's coffers, it is in fact banked by the commercial fisherman.

I have found very little common sense in my search. It seems that the commercial fishermen hold all the cards. This is despite the industry being worth very little. In 2018 UK vessels landed 724 thousand tonnes of fish worth £980 million. Sea angling contributes some two billion pounds to the UK economy, do the maths, again we are being short changed in all directions!



MAP OF PROPOSED HIGHLY PROTECTED MARINE AREAS



- 1 Farne Islands and Northumbria Coast
- 2 Farnes East
- 3 North East of Farnes Deep
- 4 Swallow Sand
- 5 Bampton Cliffs / Flamborough Head
- 6 Dogger Bank
- 7 Markham's Triangle
- 8 The Wash and North Norfolk Coast
- 9 Cromer
- 10 Orford Inshore
- 11 Blackwater, Crouch, Roach and Colne Estuary
- 12 Isle of Thanet, including Pegwell Bay and Ramsgate
- 13 Goodwin Sands
- 14 Shakespeare Bay and Dover
- 15 Folkestone Pomerania
- 16 Fairlight and Dungeness
- 17 Beachy Head
- 18 Chichester and Langstone Harbours
- 19 Portsmouth Harbour
- 20 Wight-Barfleur Reef
- 21 Poole Harbour
- 22 Studland Bay
- 23 Kimmeridge
- 24 South Dorset
- 25 Lyme Bay South
- 26 East of Start Point
- 27 Torbay South
- 28 Start Point South
- 29 Plymouth including Rame Head and Wembury Bay
- 30 Whitsand and Looe Bay
- 31 Hand Deeps Reef
- 32 Falmouth
- 33 Fal and Helford and Kingsbridge
- 34 The Manacles
- 35 Gwennap Head
- 36 Greater Haig Fras Area
- 37 East of Haig Fras
- 38 North East of Haig Fras
- 39 SW approach to Bristol Channel
- 40 The Gannel, Newquay
- 41 Lundy Island
- 42 Severn Estuary and Weston-Super-Mare
- 43 Croker Carbonate Slabs
- 44 River Ribble North
- 45 Morecambe Bay
- 46 South Rigg

OUT AND ABOUT WITH ANDY by Andrew Cook

Last minute decision pays off!

Normally, when I change my mind on a location it ends in disaster, but last night the fishing 'Gods' decided to give me a break after three lean weeks! The plan was to hit either of one or two Essex marks in search of a hound, but a conversation with Roly Cannon yesterday morning had me considering Herne Bay. The weed was going to be a problem, but I hung everything on getting a weed free 'window' at the top of the tide.



I left home at 3pm for the hour's drive to the venue. There were no stops for food as I'd had a nice small steak salad lunch at home, I'm on a diet and lost 6lbs so far! It was a Friday afternoon and the beach was still busy with visitors so I grabbed a pint of 'Ghost Ship' from the pub and had a walk along the arm. At 6pm it was time to set up opposite the Ship Inn. I decided to fish two rods, one with fresh peeler and one on hardback, many thanks to Roly Cannon and Medway Tackle Supplies at Gillingham for sorting the crabs out.

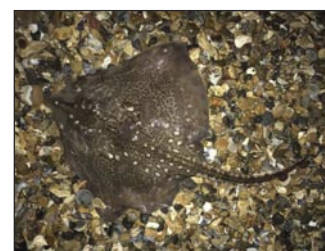
There were no bites early on and the weed was present in considerable amounts, but, it was collecting where the leader joined the rig and the bait was not getting covered. The weed settled altogether about an hour before HW. High Water arrived with still nothing landed, but, the pub-goers and the live band had kept me entertained! Earlier in the evening Keith Johnson had mentioned 'half an hour after HW' and boy he wasn't wrong. The first bite came and it was a typical ray knock which resulted in a thornback of around 4lbs. As I was bringing it in, my other rod went off, but after lifting into the fish it went light.

Just five minutes later and I had another 'slack liner' which must have been moving in like a train as I couldn't keep up with it! I finally felt the fish which I thought was another ray, but it managed to spit the hook. The 'peeler rod' went out again, it had not been in the water for two minutes and line was peeling off the spool. I lifted into the fish and 'wallop' a series of very big thumps on the rod tip. At times, I was just holding the rod as the fish was pretty much doing what it liked! After a good five minutes, it was in the shallows, but, two bays down from where I started! It was weighed and a new PB for me, my first ever 'double' at 11lbs 2ozs. A quick picture, courtesy of a bystander, and back it went.

I was knackered and my back was killing me, but, the hounds didn't care. Another screaming bite, but this one dropped the bait. The weed returned about 12:30am so I had another couple of chucks then called it a day. Not loads of fish, but, some really good bites and another milestone reached, a 'double' hound so I'm over the moon!

Good luck if you are out over the next few weeks. I will be hound chasing again soon, boy do they fight in shallow water!

Tight lines all! Andy Cook



DUNGENESS Latest catch reports on www.seagullfishingtackle.com

Since we have been allowed back fishing, the beaches have been so busy which is great to see, let's hope it continues. The summer fishing this year has been brilliant so far with more and more bass showing and the number of smoothounds being reported is increasing year on year.

BEACH REPORTS

Lots of bass being reported along with a growing number of smoothounds and in the last few weeks the weather has 'broken' which has helped the fishing, if not the sun tans!

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

Good surf = Bass...

I had this report in yesterday from Paul Howells:

"Hi Tony. Great to see you up and running again the lug were banging (unlike those I had from a local fish shop a few weeks ago!). I headed down to Dengmarsh and had the beach to myself mainly due to the wind I reckon. Chocolate coloured water, but good surf and the bass were playing ball. 7 in total with the largest at 55cm. All returned. 1 small token sole and a whiting after dark. Great session and good to catch up again my friend. See you soon. Paul"



Saturday evening over low tide in very rough weather behind the station and had this one just shy of 4lb. See you again soon"

Bass...some like it rough...

I had this report in today from Steve Howkins:

"Thanks for the bait today and great to see you again Tony. Fished



Ben's a bit of a 'smoothie'...

I had this report in this afternoon from Ben Norton:

"Hi Tony. After what seemed to have been a never ending influx of whiting and dogfish, it was nice to land this at Galloways earlier this morning! Successful bait was black lug tipped with Tesco King Prawn! All the best, Ben"



Nice ray for Brian... I had this report in today from Brian Heighton fishing at Galloways:

"Hi Tony, I don't normally post catches, but as this was my first ever thornback, I decided to let you know. It was caught on Friday afternoon, 10th July, 1hr before high water."

BEACH OUTLOOK FOR AUGUST

If the weather settles down, we should see a bumper crop of mackerel, if not, more bass and smoothounds and I hope more sole. We have had a few, but this is the month that can point the way and make a good summer great.

BEST BAITS

Lugworm is still number one for sole. Fish baits including squid and crab work for the hounds, but sandeel takes some beating for bass.

BOAT REPORTS

At last some boats are getting afloat albeit with social distancing. Here are a couple of boat reports coming into my site:

Playing with the big girls...

I had this report just in from Anthony out on Peganina from Rye:

"Absolute beast of fish, no bite just a click, click then a screaming racket as she picked the bait up and went for her house!! After finally stopping her with my doubled up zippy, tld 25 on full clutch and my thumb, she slowly started to come to the boat, deciding to swim in to the tide staying as deep she could. After multiple crash dives, she was in the net - A very happy skipper!! Quick wrestle for a photo and then gently slipped through the stern door to watch her swim off strong!! Now thinking I might have to go even heavier on the tackle to land my 100lber!"



Fairchance is Turbo powered...

I saw this post from Jerry Oiller on Friday:

"Fairchance fishing today 01797 363544 Dungeness. Dave Foggy Robinson aboard today along with one other, Dave on good form as usual, landing a nice plump turbot (Target Species) and a 5lb bass, a couple of pollack and black bream also caught, mackerel were hard to find for bait. Happy Days."

Great day...11 species boated...

This report I saw posted yesterday from Jerry Oiller:

"Fairchance fishing Dungeness 01797 363544 Today. A day of many species, Shirley had the best codling, 5 or 6 pollack caught, 12 bream, skate, tope, smoothhound, plaice, 11 species in all! Happy Days!"

BOAT OUTLOOK FOR AUGUST

More congers should show along with bigger black bream, but, all other summer species will be available. The big question is the weather, will it be calm enough to get afloat?



BEST BAITS

Local herring is great bait, traditionally for rays, but good for every predator. Mackerel are the local summer classic. Cuttlefish is good for congers, being tougher giving time for the fish to find the bait.



Wow, it has been an amazing month aboard Lady Ann of Ramsgate with some fantastic fishing. There has been the occasional some slow day for no reason, but, on the whole sport has been fantastic! Our usual target specie, bass, have been shoaling up in numbers and if you are lucky enough to be in the right place at the right tide, there are big fish up to 7lb coming in, sometimes three at time! This is rare as the usual size is around 3lb mark or for the modern angler 1.5kgs!

I have been testing out numerous feathers and lures and the blue rubber feathers which I buy in bulk from an online shop are 50lbs bs main line so you have a chance to land multiple fish. Solo bigger bass have been coming up on varied baits with prawn, herring chunk and squid being the preferred choice. We haven't cracked the double this year yet, but, we did have a 9 lbs fish that was very lean. A shame as in its prime it maybe would have seen around 12 lbs fish. It put a



good fight for young James and believe it or not that was his first sea fish, unbelievable! Bison, one of my good friends, who comes on Lady Ann with his 'slightly bonkers' group had a nice 7.1 lb bass on half a herring while fishing for skate. He won the pot of £2.50 so he will probably retire now as he also done a clean sweep of the meat raffle aboard Lady Ann. I did say they are bonkers!!

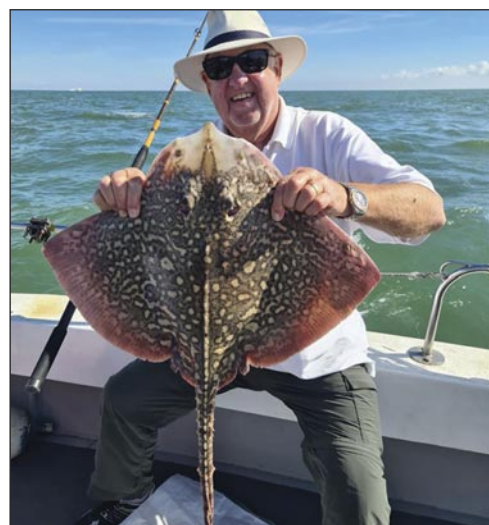
Back to the hounds which are still around in numbers, but, definitely not the big girls. We were getting fish over 19 lbs fishing with king prawn and peeler and spider crab peeler, obviously sizeable spider though. On a good day, we were catching up to 25 hounds with the biggest just touching double figures, but, an average of around 6 lbs. They really put up such a good fight on light tackle. Rigs are very simple running ledger or bolt rig, 40 lbs bs hook length with 4/0 koi wide mouth hooks.

On to the skate or roker, what ever you like to call them! They have not been in the numbers we usually see at Ramsgate. Maybe the commercial whelk fishing isn't helping or it's just one of those years. Bigger herring or bluey baits have been picking up some bigger females up to 13 lbs, but, they seem thin so fish look bigger until they are weighed and sadly disappoints the angler. I think the skate fishing is underrated, they might not pull and thrash about like the hounds, but, if you go with light tackle in the tide they are still good fun. To date, the mackerel have been very poor with the odd day producing. If you do want a day on big mackerel it can be arranged, but, we have to go offshore and unfortunately once there, the other species are very slow, but, mackerel over 1 kg or 2 lbs aren't uncommon so plenty of ice and cool boxes are recommended to keep them fresh.

Well that's me signing off for this month as I have got to get Lady Ann ready for another day.

Tight lines and see you soon, Jason.

If you would like a day afloat with Jason or skipper Dick, please contact them on 07966 273650.



HASTINGS report courtesy of Hastings Angling Centre

Fishing has been pretty good all round lately with many anglers getting out and enjoying freedom! Plenty of bass about on bait and lures according to the sea state. Rays and smoothhounds in numbers in Pevensy Bay. Mackerel are showing in numbers off the beaches on clear water days. Some good soles were caught during the day when the water was very coloured and now in the evenings. Whittings starting to arrive now.

In the boats, fishing has been restricted due to windy conditions, but lately, several days have been possible. Some decent congers caught, bass and pollack on the wrecks. Black bream not really arrived in numbers yet with only a few being had, but due anytime now. Codlings still about on rough ground. This years cancelled 3 day boat festival was supposed to have been the second weekend in July and typically the weather was great all 3 days!

Prospects for August. Given decent clear water conditions the bass and mackerel will be about off the shore. Surface and shallow lures for the bass during the day and big baits in close at night, especially if lots of mackerel have been about as there are always a few dead ones, heads etc about to attract the big ones close in. Soles in the night on lug as well - provided you can get through the whiting! In the boats the black bream will be prime targets, plaice at their best, pollack and congers on the wrecks. August is also good time for turbot.



RAY AT RANGE FOR RICHARD

Richard Smith had this wonderful looking ray from the beach at Hythe Ranges. The fish wasn't weighed, but was caught at range on bluey bait and released.



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
- Frant Lakes** Hawkenbury Road, Bells Yew Green
Tunbridge Wells TN3 9AP **01892 616424**
- Furnace Brook Fishery & Fish Farm** Trolliloes, Cowbeech, near
Hailsham BN27 4QR **01435 830835**
- Gabriels Fishery** Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP
07730 066088
- Greenacres Farm Fishery** Sissinghurst Road
Biddenden TN27 8EH **07933 934942**
- Hartley Lands Fishery** Swattenden Lane, Cranbrook TN17 3PS
07703 825064
- Hawkhurst Fish Farm** Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT
01580 753813
- Horam Manor Fishery** Horam Manor Farm, Horam TN21 0JB
01323 840889 / 07707 759364
- Iden Wood Fishery** Coldharbour Lane, Iden, Rye TN31 7UT
01797 280180 / 07906 232225
- Knightingales Fishery** Stone-In-Oxney
Near Tenterden TN30 7HA **07941 176205**
- Mousehole Lakes** Maidstone Road, Nettlestead
Near Paddock Wood ME18 5HR **07725 783405**
- Orchard Place Farm Fishery** Pearsons Green Road
Paddock Wood TN12 6NY **01892 838576 / 07568 176058**
- Sandwich Lakes Coarse Fishery** Sandwich Ash Road (A257)
Near Canterbury CT3 2DA **07936 409912**
- Tricklebrook Fishery** Colts Hill, Five Oak Green TN12 6SH
07743 955812
- Wylands International Angling Centre** Wylands Farm
Powdermill Lane, Battle TN33 0SU **01424 893394**

Trout Fisheries

- Brick Farm Lakes** Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux BN27 4RS
01435 830835
- Chalk Springs** Park Bottom, Arundel BN18 0AA
01903 883742
- Cinder Hill Fly Fishing** Membership available from
email: r.nathan@btinternet.com **01892 770903**
- Hastings Fly Fishers Club** Powdermill Reservoir
Reservoir Lane, Sedlescombe TN33 0PJ **01424 870498**
- Spring Hill Trout Waters** Albans Farm, Romford Road
Pembury TN2 4BB **07951 304515**
- Tenterden Trout Waters** Coombe Farm, Chennell Park Road
Tenterden TN30 6XA **01580 763201**

Tackle & Bait Supplies

- Absolute Tackle** 12 Wealden Forest Park
Herne Common CT6 7LQ **01227 636724 / 07809 330854**
- Bodle Angling** Cuckfield Road, Burgess Hill RH15 8RE
01444 247757
- Bankside Baits** Customised hook bait specialists **07874 347703**
www.banksidebaits.co.uk email: steve@banksidebaits.co.uk

- Camos Carp Cabin** 11 Turner Street, Ramsgate CT11 8NJ
01843 581784
- 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
- 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
- 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
- South Norwood Angling Club** **0208 778 0168**
Enquiries to: Steve Izatt, 282 Kent House Road
Beckenham BR3 1JG or email: steveizatt@aol.com
- Teise Anglers & Conservation Society** **07960 518738**
Further information at www.teiseanglers.org.uk
Membership enquiries to email: teisesecretary@gmail.com
- 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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