

FRESHWATER INFORMER

FREE

Richard Smith
RIVER STOUR



plus JUNIOR INFORMER pages 40-44, TROUT INFORMER pages 46-49, SEA INFORMER pages 50-57

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

Our summer has certainly provided us with a mixed bag of weather! There seems to have been countless weather fronts queuing up in the Atlantic waiting to cross the country and dump their loads upon us poor unfortunates! Even short range forecasts have been very inaccurate, what strange times we are living in!

I hope you have all enjoyed a great month's fishing and have managed to grace the banks and beaches between the showers! Catches have been generally good, but the fish do seem to have responded to the ever changing air pressure. Late June and early July saw some very low pressure with numbers more normally seen in the autumn. For those historians amongst you and indeed those with a very good memory, 1944 (D-Day year) saw an appalling summer weather wise. The weeks leading up to D-Day were filled with gales, low temperatures and heavy rain almost leading to the postponement of the famous operation. We are told that our weather is a result of global warming, however, could it be that the earth is simply going through a cycle? We once had an Ice Age, could we see another in the coming years? There is no doubt that our climate has shifted to one of extremes providing us with conditions we normally associate with countries many thousands of miles away. If we apply 'warming conditions' to our fishing, there is no doubt that sea anglers are catching species virtually unheard of only 20 years or so ago. In my younger years we never caught the likes of thornbacks, smoothounds, bass, plaice, gurnards, bream etc from our local beaches in the numbers that we now see. Indeed dogfish were fairly uncommon and it was a novelty to catch one, but these days the local waters see them in almost plague like proportions. The humble pouting was commonplace and of a good size, enough to take fillets from, but these days a pouting of 1lb is noteworthy. Last winter the sea temperature dropped very low, indeed it was the lowest for many years, however, the prime winter specie (cod) never appeared. A couple of hundred miles north and lots of cod were caught by shore and boat anglers, yet the sea temperature there has also shifted. Our geographical position in the South East does mean that we are within easy reach by the European fishing boats and the pressure on species such as cod has been immense, but we have also seen the numbers of many other fish boom. The subject is huge and there are so many variables that we could fill this magazine with many relevant theories!

It has been great to welcome many new advertisers to the magazine providing you with more choice of places to fish and shop. There is no doubt that our region is blessed with fishing venues that cater for all tastes and disciplines. We are indeed very lucky! I always welcome new advertisers to the magazine, so if you would like to see your business appear on our pages, please do get in touch for a chat!

Enjoy your fishing, Barry Reed

The Freshwater Informer

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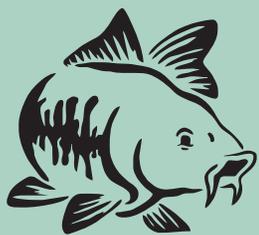
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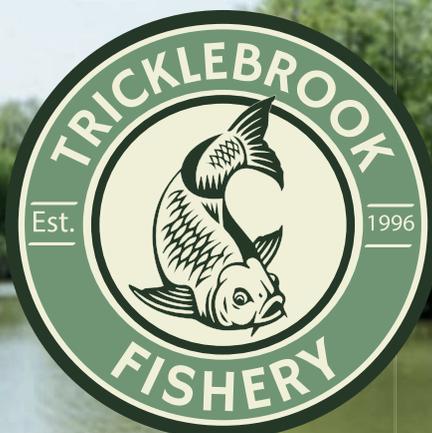
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Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

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

Snipe Lake has produced some cracking fish again this month, here are a few 'well done's'. **Chris Edland** had a small common of 15-11, 2 mirrors at 18-10 and 19lb and a 27lb linear while his mate **Mark Young** caught his first Snipe Lake carp, sadly it was a spawned out 14lb mirror but he was happy anyway, **Brian Doran** had a 17-10 mirror, **Craig Clayton** banked a common of 18-12, **Stuart Watson** had a 27-04 common, friends **Connor Peppard**, **Ed Rayner** and **Jake Williams** all caught with Connor banking a 22-08 fully, Jake landing good old Stumpy Tail at 21-08 and Ed banking a 21-08 mirror and a **PB** common of 31-08, **Steven Gallagher** kept his run going with a 22-14 common, **Sam Hewell** banked his first Snipe carp at 14-07 and 16lb, **Dillon Render** banked a 20lb common, **Simon Wellbourne** banked the small grassie at 17-02, **Andy Wheeldon** banked his first Snipe carp at 17lb, **Dan Munroe** caught again, this time a 26lb mirror, **Peter Mew** had a result when he banked a 29-02 mirror and the big grassie at a **PB** of 29-10 while his mate **Dave Russell** banked a 16lb mirror and a 28lb common, **Mick Box** was rewarded for his patience when he banked a 19lb common, **Ian Yorke** had a common of 23-12 but the pick of the bunch was **Mark Howland** who, on his first visit to us banked a common of 30-14 then his next session saw him bank commons at 22-8, 23-10, 27-02 and a 24lb mirror. Not to be out done, his son **Sam** banked a mirror of 17-04 then a spawned out Hayleys Mirror at 29-02.



Brian Doran



Chris Edland



Peter Mew - 29-10 PB Snipe



Sam Howland



Antony Parsons

Westlake has again been producing some great fish and plenty of busy sessions for a lot of the cat anglers. Well done to brothers **Danny** and **Shane Lineker** who banked cats at 24lb and 29-08 (Danny) and 22lb, 35-02 and 52-04 (Shane), while **Michael Samboer** had his first ever cats at 17lb, 30lb and 32lb while **Anthony Parsons** had 19 cats which included his **PB** being broken 4 times to a massive 68-14, **Stuart Pirl** had one at 54-04, **Steven Liddle** banked cats at 25, 27, 33, 35 and a 64-04 **PB**, **Peter Mew** banked 13 cats to 42-03, **Max Wake** had 6 to 31-04, **Nikolay Tzanov** had 6 to 51-04 and his buddy **Tsvetelin Valkovski** had 4 to 38lb, **Ross McDaniel** had 16 to 37lb which followed a previous good session where he banked over 20 cats, **Raygan Harbour-Gerrish** had 3 to a **PB** 43lb, **Steve Rose** also had a **PB** at 48-08, **Simon Mercer** had 15 cats to over 30lb in a quick overnighter before work, **Gordon Noakes** banked cats at 34-04 and 62lb, **Kieron Middle** banked 5 to a **PB** 49-02, **Martin Smith** continued catching by banking 8 to 37-02, **Nigel Porter** banked his first ever cats at 26lb and 32-07 and **Graham Jewiss** from the Burger Van banked 7 cats to 41lb.



Raygan Harbour-Gerrish

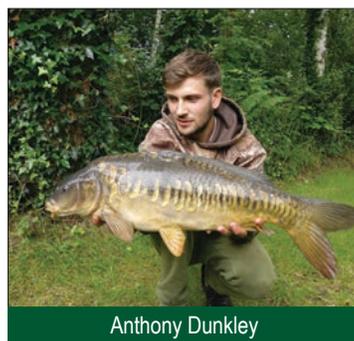


Gordon Noakes

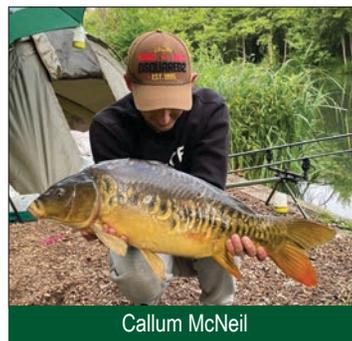
Jeffs Lake has been as usual, the place to go for some small carp, bream and F1's. Most day anglers on there have been rewarded with multiple catches. Method feeders seem the way to go on there at the moment.

Moat Pond has seen day anglers getting amongst the fish, here are a few examples. **John Howe** had 3 bream, 5 carp and 4 F1's, **Jim Masters** had 5 carp and **Paul Kelly** had 17 fish which included 7 carp, 4 bream, 4 tench and 2 roach.

Daughters Lake has been hit and miss again, but the anglers that hit the spots did ok. Well done to **Chris Shepherd** who banked a 15lb grassie and 2 mirrors, **Dean Reynolds** had a 15lb linear while **Nathan Bastin** had a low double mirror, **Anthony Dunkley** had a low double common and a low double mirror, **Gerry Fowler** had a **PB** grassie at 24-06, **Frank Reid** had a 23-14 grassie and a low double linear mirror and **Callum McNeil** banked mirrors at 10lb 11lb, 12lb and 14-07 and a 17lb common.



Anthony Dunkley



Callum McNeil



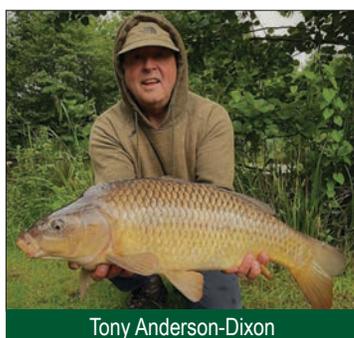
Chris Shepherd

Eden Pond has been producing a few small carp but mainly tench to just over 4lb. Well done to **Mark Bunker** who had a good days fishing when he banked 6 bream and 9 tench to a 4-03 **PB**.

Maze Lake has seen a few day anglers on there getting amongst the fish with a mixed bag of fish banked, plenty of F1's, small carp and lots of bream to 5lb.

Majors Lake has been producing some huge bream again and a few nice carp also. Well done to **Kieran Jeffrey** who banked a low double mirror, **Terry Cooper** was relieved to get a couple of fish in the net up to a 18-02 common, **Ray Owens** first visit this year saw him bank a 15lb mirror then a low double mirror, **Al Randall**'s first session in over 2 years saw him bank a lovely 17lb ghost mirror, **Terry Edwards** had 4 small commons and a low double mirror, **Jimmy Taffurelli** and **Graham Miller** banked 5 commons and 2 bream between them, **Tony Anderson-Dixon** banked a 14lb common and a 17lb ghostie and Karl Wallis banked 15 bream to a **PB** of 8-11 and a **PB** mirror of 20-06.

We apologise if you caught and aren't listed, please report all catches and send us pictures of banked fish.

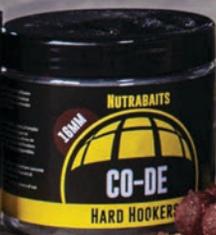


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Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hawkhurst, Kent

Specimen Lake There have been some great catches coming from Specimen Lake over the last month. We are in the process of removing all catfish from this lake to help aid in carp growth and we are starting to see changes in how the carp behave which is fantastic. **James Herbert** had a lovely 25lbs 8ozs mirror. He was fishing alongside **Mark Kirwan** who caught a 26lbs 10ozs mirror and a 21lbs 13ozs common.



Steve Taylor - 29lbs



James Herbert - 25lbs 8ozs



Mark Kirwan - 26lbs 10ozs

Steve Taylor had 4 commons out on his most recent session, between 21lbs and 29lbs.

Main Lake **George Caulfeild-Browne** managed a new **PB** carp at 26lbs from peg 6 - great fishing!

Dave Stamp caught a stunning 30lbs 8ozs mirror, his Dad also had a few fish out just under 20lbs, all in great condition. There have also been a few catfish out, the biggest reaching 65lbs, but we have not received photos as yet.



Dave Stamp - 17lbs



Dave Stamp - 30lbs 8ozs



George Caulfeild-Browne



Joe



Ron Davis - Quarry Lake



Ron Davis - Quarry Lake



Ron Davis - Quarry Lake

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Dove Lake **Joe** had a great session on peg 8 landing a lovely linear as well as a bigger common. **Simon Francis** caught a 26lbs 8ozs mirror from peg 6 during a 48 hour session over the weekend.

Kevin Dunning landed a whopping 54lbs catfish from Dove Lake.

Quarry Lake Plenty of fish coming out to visiting anglers and regular **Ron Davis** has found his fair share!

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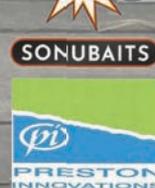


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30lb - Pear Lake



Bramley Lake



Bramley Lake

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"I took Tom, a long term sufferer of anxiety, on the Match 1 lake at Monk Lakes for a few hours following his numerous blanks sea fishing and he was keen to try freshwater fishing.



He had lots of carp, 3 tench, 2 bream, 3 perch and lots of roach and rudd.

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Regards, Kev and Tom

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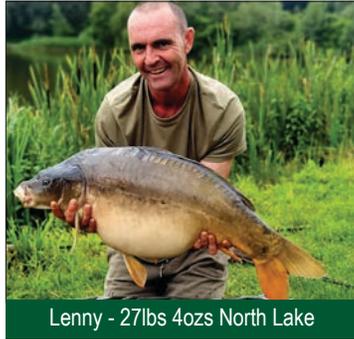
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Elphicks Fisheries Horsmonden, Kent



Michael White - 33lbs 14ozs North Lake



Lenny - 27lbs 4ozs North Lake



Carl Jones - 42lbs 7ozs North Lake



Another fine mirror from Westend Lake



Great mirror from Westend Lake



Martin Pleace - 32lbs Sandwich Lake



Robert Kavanagh - 34lbs Pullens Lake



Specimen from Westend Lake



Westend Lake mirror



Chris Smith - 25lbs Prairie



Common from Prairie Lake

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Tel: **01580 212512**

email: info@elphicks-fisheries.co.uk



Darren Walker - 30lbs 6ozs Prairie Lake



Lucy Gruber - 28lbs 8ozs Prairie Lake



Nice mirror from Prairie Lake



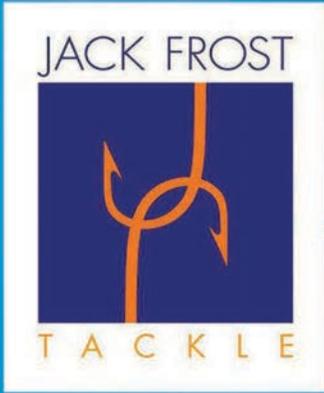
Nichola Osgood - PB Prairie Lake



Paul Matthews - Prairie Lake



Prairie Lake



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Greenacres Farm Fishery Biddenden, Kent

Speci 1 This lake has been hard at times and very rewarding other times as **Simon** and **Keith** found out catching 30 fish on a 48hr trip with an average weight of 16-17lb. **Gary Marshall** also had a great time catching four beautiful fish, three commons and one scaly mirror. **Finley** could not resist the opportunity to bag a few fish himself. Baits that have been working are the new Sticky Active over a bed of pellet and boilies, or a solid pva bag filled with particle and a wafter or pop up as hook bait.



Speci 2 This lake has finally woken up with cats coming out to heavily baited pellet areas, fishing pop ups or pellet as hook bait. Tipper rig is proving to be a deadly method on this lake during the day and night. A recent family booking of the lake for a week ended just as it started on a high with fish being caught all around the lake.

Heron Produces all year round with a good head of fish. Carp are showing up to any method or bait being used and can also be taken off the top during sunny spells. Any other species are being caught fishing tight to the bottom using sweetcorn, maggots, luncheon meat and pellet with heavily baited areas producing more fish.



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Kingfisher If you like to keep active then this is the lake for you as it is non-stop action and fish are being caught on all baits. A very overstocked lake that is good for families to bring their kids down and enjoy the sport.

Bluebell This small pond is proving to be very popular for pleasure anglers with the amount of tench it can produce along with the odd carp. Tactics that are working are small baited areas fishing with maggots, worms, corn, luncheon meat or paste.



GREENACRES FARM FISHERY



Sissinghurst Road | Biddenden | Kent | TN27 8EH

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

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

Gates open at 7am and close at 7pm

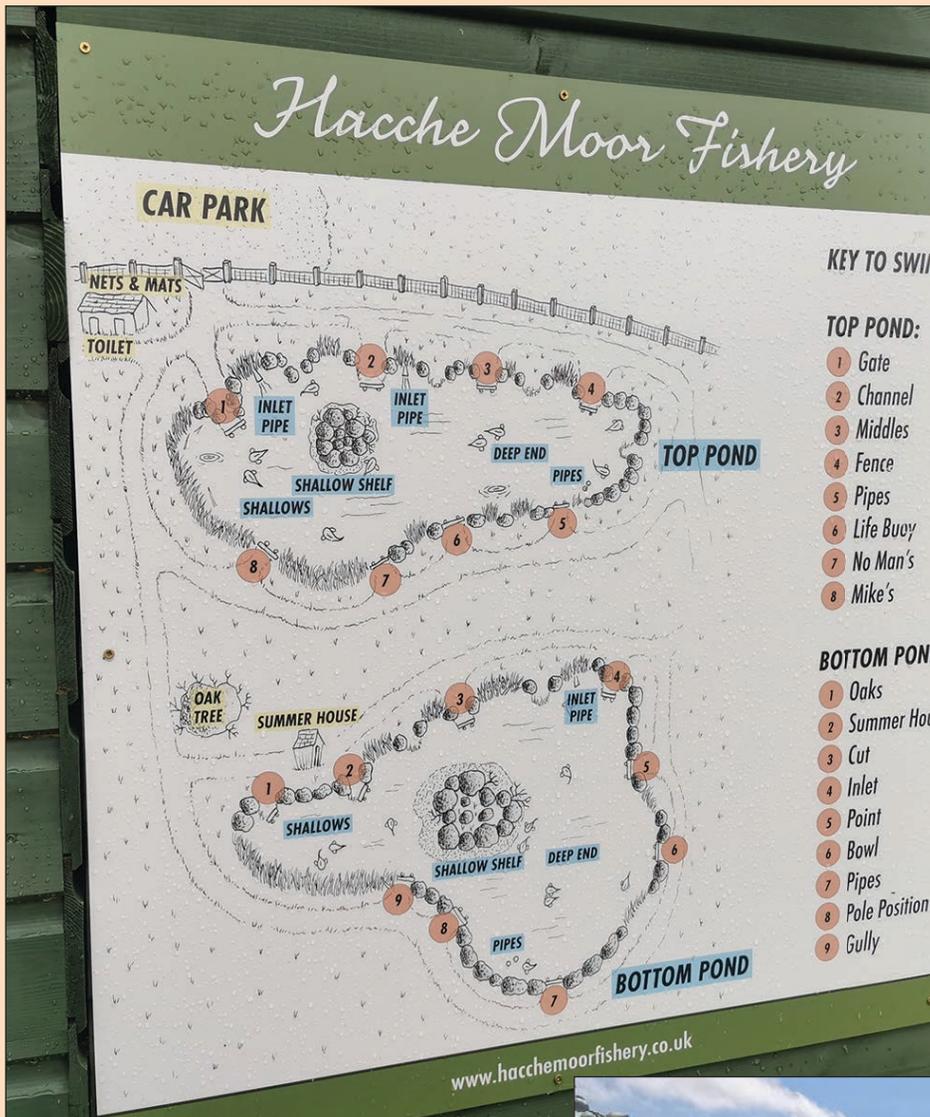
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Email : greenacresfarmfishery@gmail.com



Team Pallatrax is a not-for-profit concept I started a few years ago with a simple mission statement: to create an awesome angling community of like-minded anglers which was free to join. A safe multi species fishing group for all ages, sexes and experiences with a focus on helping newcomers to the sport through a host of different initiatives. This unique family has now grown to over 1,600 anglers from literally all over the world, from Thailand through to Canada, and continues to grow daily. It really is so exciting, so rewarding and has become a big part of my own life as a fellow Team member.



One area I really enjoy are the Team Fish-Ins, which take place regularly and are organised by the Events committee to ensure that everything is catered for and they are, therefore, stress free, and hopefully, fish-filled sessions! Life is a tad hectic, especially with having my own lakes dug at the moment on top of everything else, so last week I was eagerly anticipating meeting up with old and new friends for the latest Fish-In at the lovely **Hacche Moor fishery** just into North Devon.

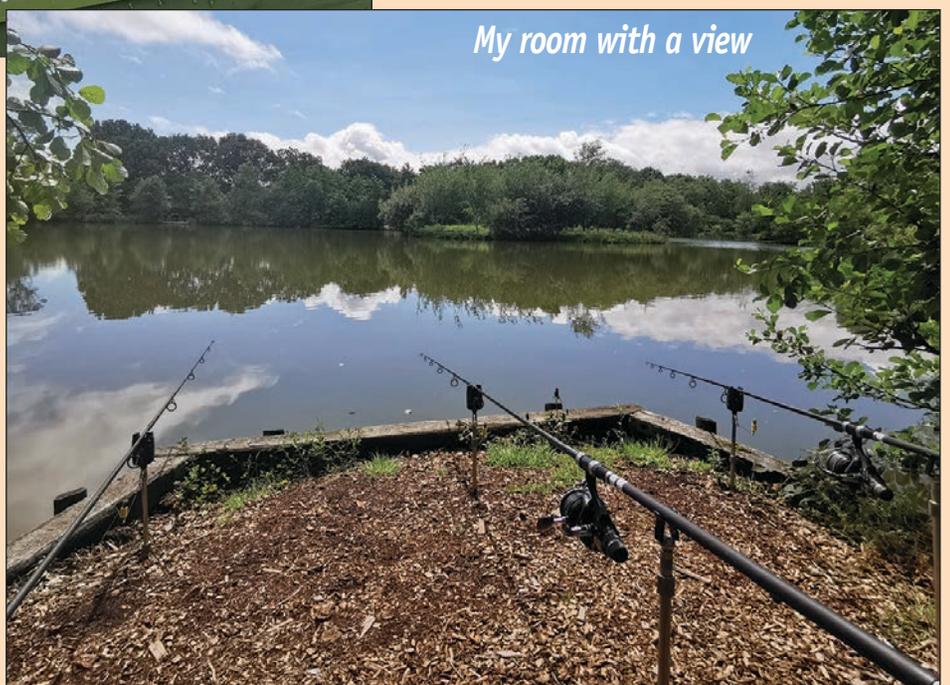
I must confess to having fished this venue before and not having caught, which meant that I was on a mission to break the duck and catch. I drove into the car park of our R.V. point and met up with my fellow team members and over a few brews started to plan and scheme! Of course, it could all change when we got to the fishery, but it is always good to dream and with several of us having fished this venue before, it was good to share the knowledge we had to those who had yet to wet a line on one of the two lakes we had exclusively booked for 48 hours.

The sun was shining as we drove in convoy, but on the horizon we could see the dark clouds gathering over Exmoor and had I once more tempted fate and was I going to be getting wet again? My fishing has been pretty sparse this year and it seems that every time I have managed to sneak out bankside, the heavens have opened up!

On arrival we always walk the venue and this time was no different. It really is a cracking complex; safe, secure and with good facilities. I especially like that they provide their own nets, mats and slings – great to protect against any bio security issues, plus you don't have to take wet and smelly kit back with you!

The draw was completed and we all settled in our swims and just as I had set my bivvy up, yes, once more the rain moved in. Light to start with, but the weather forecast was looking anything but dry! Hey ho, I was in a swim I liked the look of and, even if the weather was going to be challenging, it was always going to be better than working!

I'm not ever about looking for flawed excuses as when you are fishing such waters you



know you can never be far away from fish and I certainly had them in my swim, but trying to get a bite was turning into a challenge for all of us across both lakes. Tactically I was focusing on my go-to approach, the Stonze System, which was cast out onto my spots but that first evening I kept a flow of mixers going in to see if I could tempt anything off the surface. I did eventually get a few fish taking but they were so spooky, I suppose after months of angling pressure I should have only expected the fish to be so wary.

The friendships you make within fishing are a big part of the sport for me, and on several occasions I was quite happy to rest the swim and wander the banks having a good catch up with everyone. One memory that struck home was seeing one of the more experienced members showing another how to get the best out of using a baiting spoon. Passing on such knowledge on a one-to-one is a great way to help those with less experience and, as mentioned, is a big part of what the Team focuses on.

Fortunately, I did manage to catch the only fish to come off the lake with a beautiful looking 20lbs Mirror that certainly gave a spirited fight, especially under the rod tip. The annoying thing was I did lose a second fish through a one in a million chance when my main line tangled onto a small flap of rubber on one of my alarms. In all the years I have fished, and all the fish I had caught, this was a first for me and now I look back I can laugh about it, but at the time...!

It was good to see a couple of carp come out of the top lake and yet again we all really enjoyed ourselves with more friendships made and memories created – which is what it should always be about!



Team member Gary Baker with a 21lbs fully scaled



Team member Luke Cunningham



My 20lb mirror on the nose

For more information about Team Pallatrax, and how to join, please check out the Pallatrax website at: www.pallatrax.co.uk.

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

*Simon
'Pom'
Pomeroy*

Letter to the editor



Regular writer to the magazine, Robin Piper, sent a letter telling us of his latest fishing trip:

Dear Barry, I had a recent weekday visit to Claygate Lakes and visited on a Monday as the weekends are generally busy with bookings on my favoured Lake Sophie. I was surprised to find only a few cars in the car park when I arrived. I could see another angler fishing on Lake Amy and there was plenty of room on Sophie. I unloaded the car and made my way to peg 21. The sky was clear and there was only a light breeze and I set up my 10' leger rod with a ½ ounce Pallatrax Stonze weight stopped 9" from the size 12 barbless hook with a plastic stop. There was no apparent movement on the surface so I threw out a couple of slices of bread as this normally gets the fish up and in a feeding mood. I also chopped up some prawns and fed them as loose feed. I baited with a prawn on the hook. I was not expecting much to happen straight away, but just 10 minutes later the tip pulled round and the culprit was a small tench. I was quite pleased when three more tench came along shortly after all a little bigger than the first. I was casting half way across the water and the bites were steady. I did change to some popped up bread and this found a good number of common carp between 3lbs and 4 1/2lbs.



I then had a bite which was different. It was a soft pull on the tip and I picked up the rod and connected to a fish that I knew wasn't a carp. After a short fight I landed a 3 1/4lbs chub, a first for me on this lake! None of the large bream or bigger tench that have been recently stocked made a show. After packing up, I threw the last of my bread to the far bank and as the bread hit the water the carp were on it immediately. Their spawning period certainly seemed to be over. I fished from 10am to 4.30 and with the chub I finished with 33lbs of fish.

The week previously I fished on Eva as there were plenty of swims to begin the day. It was a slow start with a few small carp on the bottom. A slack period came and the sun moved behind a tree line and the carp moved to a small bay to my left. Out came the bread and after feeding a few loose pieces on the top I was confident that the fish would begin to feed. I only had to wait a few minutes and I had a nice take. It didn't take long for me to have a dozen plus fish. With time running out I made one last cast after seeing a large grey shadow in front of me. I flicked out a thumb nail sized piece of bread and a take quickly followed. The fish put up a good fight and it turned out to be my best fish of the day at 7lbs 9ozs, a nice looking common.

My weight for the day was 47lbs 12ozs. It amazes me that the fish don't take this bait when you begin your session, but that's fishing! At times I sit there thinking about moving but being a bit older now, that doesn't always appeal to me!

Regards, Robin Piper



Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society

Pete Groombridge supplied this report:

Sunday's (18/7/21) Tonbridge club match on the River Medway from the Tonbridge Flood Barrier to Haysden Country Park

23 anglers fished the Abrey & Tibbets Cup and I knew I wanted a low draw to be in with a chance and in the shade, or at least in the last few just to be in the shade, so when I got peg 20 I was happy enough that I would be comfy at least, although I expected the winner to come from the first few pegs up by the flood barrier as the water is well oxygenated up there.

When I got to my peg the bank was steeper than expected but the GURU Rive was rock solid. Being right at the end of a footbridge behind me I wasn't expecting a lot as the foot traffic and cyclists were non-stop. I decided on one line at 6m feeding hemp and another at 11m with Sensas Bremes and brown crumb laced with casters, dead maggots and lots of chopped worm, thinking if bream don't show eels might!

From the off, I started on the 11m line hoping for an early bream as often happens on this stretch, but caught a few hemp sized roach and a skimmer all on 3 dead reds! So a quick adjustment of the rig, hook and changed top kit to a lighter elastic, I switched to single caster and away I went catching some quality roach and managing a few skimmers on the way. Strangely though, the hemp line never produced!

I missed a huge perch chasing a smaller perch I was bringing in, but later on it took a small roach and I thought I might land it, but it spat the roach as I tried to net it. I guessed it at around 3lbs.... Next time!

I finished in first place with 15lbs 7ozs, about time as the last 3 matches I've been 4th, 4th and 6th! Thanks to Richard Taylor at Medway Tackle, Tonbridge for the top quality bait and tackle.

Pete Groombridge





WELCOME TO ARUN ANGLING CENTRE

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

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Any questions

Call: **01903 770099**

Email: arun.angling@hotmail.co.uk

Find us on

www.arunangling.co.uk

Claygate Lakes Claygate, Marden, Kent

Well Summer has finally arrived in Kent and so has Yannis sunbed and parasol hire! Can't go to Greece? Then Greece has come to Kent!!

Lake Eva This lake is getting very popular with anglers wanting to do overnights as they are catching good fish with the chance of maybe an upper 20lber or even one of the four 30's that went in this year. Well done to regular **Barry** with his 20lb common from swim 35. **Matt Goode** has been at it with another 30lber from this lake and **Sarah** managed her first carp. No bivvy, but fancy night fishing? Give us a call as we have a summer house for hire along with bed chairs!

Lake Sophie Nice to see the youngsters fishing for silvers and not just carp!

Lake Amy **Matt Goode** has had another 30lbs+ fish from this lake, this time it was a spawned out common which weighed 36lbs 9ozs. This was a new 30 for this lake which meant he could name this fish 'The Tank'! He is now up to 6 different 30's from our fishery! **Well done Matt!**



New Claygate Lakes

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Night fishing:

Only by prior booking.

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



Contact Wantsum Angling Association on **01227 678063**

or visit us at

www.wantsumaa.co.uk

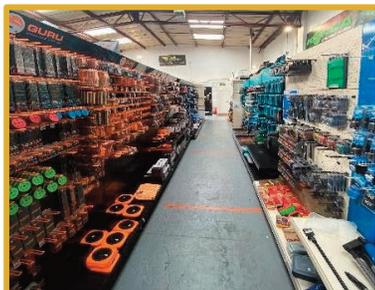
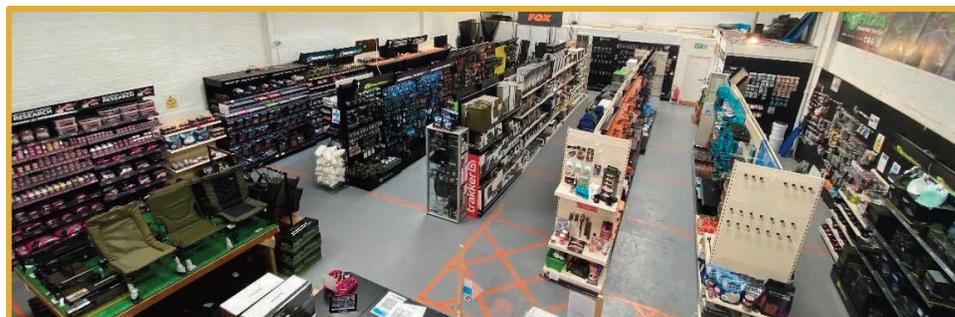
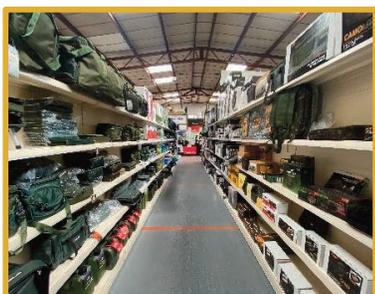


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Asa



Tom



Jake

Field Lake Very popular with new and young anglers catching multiple carp on a variety of methods.

Snake Lake Our river styled lake has seen a few match anglers producing good bag weights as well as the day ticket angler catching a good stamp of carp using simple tactics

Rosies Lake The pods on the lake have been popular over the last month and some stunning mirrors have been caught,

House Lake House has been a very busy lake this month due to it being close to all amenities. The lake itself has fished very well with lots of carp being caught on boilies and the fly.

Middle Lake Another popular lake with 20lb plus carp being seen on the bank.

Kell Lake Kell has been giving up some of its prize possessions over the last month with a 38lb common being banked, multiple other carp have also been caught

Old Spec Has fished very well with reports of carp being caught up into the 20lb.



New Spec A very popular lake and has fished very well with high 20lb common and mirror carp being caught and a fantastic 33lb

Maisies Lake Has been very popular with the cat anglers with reports of high 40lb and 50lb cats being caught along with multiple carp of 20lb plus and a report of a 38lb common carp being banked, however, the hunt for the big mirror continues!

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Sandwich
Coarse Fishery



uide



Victory Lake



Berry Lake



Species Lake Guide

Kingfisher Lake

Mirrors & Commons to 12lb
Perch to 2lb
Roach to 1lb
Rudd to 1lb

Victory Lake

Mirrors to 36lb
Commons to 25lb
Albino grass to 23lb
Ghost to 16lb
Roach to 2lb
Perch to 4lb
Rudd to 2lb

Meadow Lake

Mirrors & commons to 14lb
Koi to 8lb
Bream to 3lb
Roach to 2lb
Perch to 1lb
Goldfish to 2lb
Golden Orfe to 2lb

Victoria and Damson Match Lake

Carp to 18lb
F1 s. to 3lb
Bream to 8lb
Tench to 4lb
Roach to 2lb
Rudd to 1lb
Perch to 2lb
Crucians to 1lb 8oz

Berry Lake

Mirrors & commons to 12lb
F1 s. to 3lb
Roach to 1lb
Perch to 1lb
Rudd to 1lb
Bream to 3lb



Victoria Lake



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VICTORY LAKE

DAMSON LAKE

VICTORIA LAKE



Damson Lake



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Meadow Lake



MEADOW LAKE





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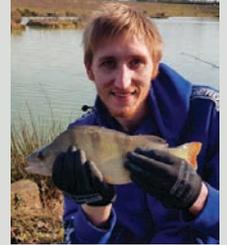
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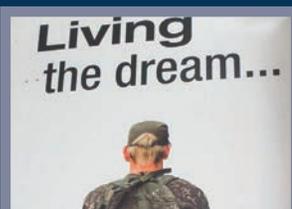
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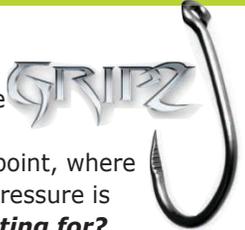
This section is where you display your catch to other Freshwater Informer readers. Each month, Pallatrax will choose from the featured photos and pick their winner. **The winner will receive 8 packs from the innovative new GRIPZ hook range.** The lucky angler will have a packet of sizes 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 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!**



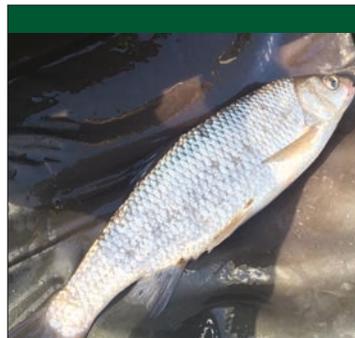
The winner of the PALLATRAX GRIPZ Hooks Set for JULY is...
JOE BENSON
well done!



Cole Peters - 6lbs River Rother



Jake Burel - 14lbs Members water



Alex Kneller - 1lb 5ozs River Rother



Dale Green



Peter Ferguson - 40lbs Elphicks



Alan Yates - Eureka Fishery, Ashford



Mark Day



Nick Tsalidikis - 2lbs



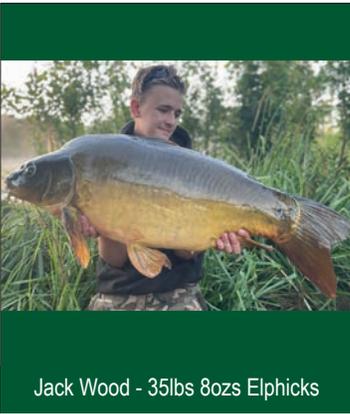
Shane Lee - 28lbs 10ozs Wylands



Matthew Good - 36lbs 9ozs Claygate Lakes



Ron Davis at Furnace Lakes



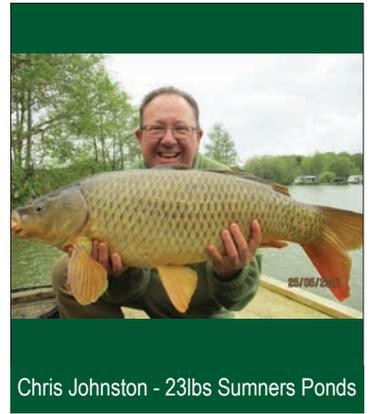
Jack Wood - 35lbs 8ozs Elphicks



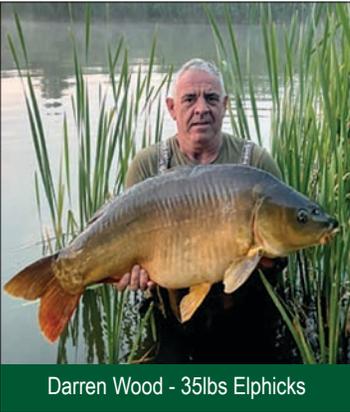
Ben Stanger - 13lbs Club water



Caitlin French - 19lbs 8ozs EMSR



Chris Johnston - 23lbs Summers Ponds



Darren Wood - 35lbs Elphicks



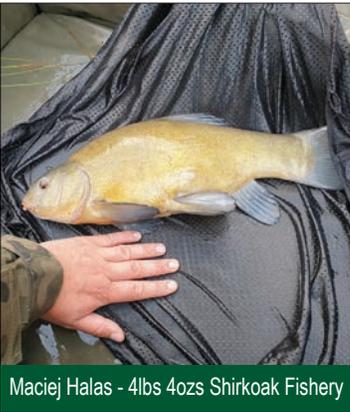
David Salter - Wishingtree Reservoir



Peter Ferguson - 30lbs 12ozs Elphicks



Alan Johnson - Club Lake



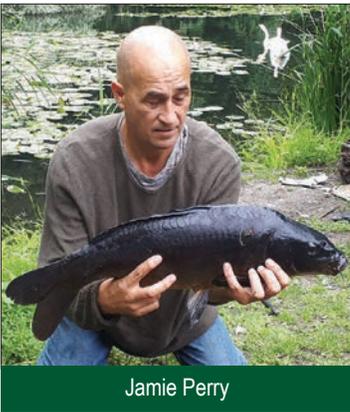
Maciej Halas - 4lbs 4ozs Shirkoak Fishery



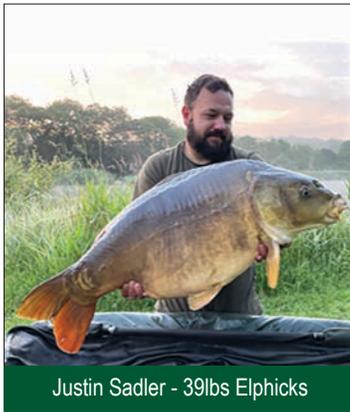
Michael Sillick - Kent Lake



Dawn Jukes - 14lbs Latchetts Lakes



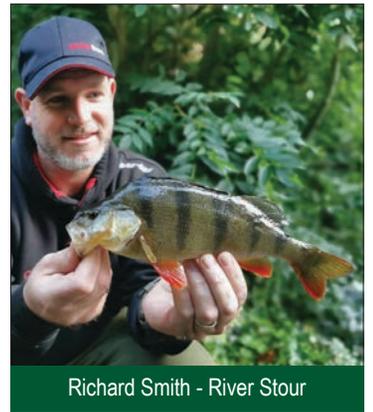
Jamie Perry



Justin Sadler - 39lbs Elphicks



Louise Hynes at Greenacres



Richard Smith - River Stour



Dave Wayman - 35lbs 1oz Club Lake

Email your Catch Photo to the Freshwater Informer at:
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or message us on the Facebook page!



PALLATRAX
Catch more fish

The Golden Years of Coarse Fishing by Bob Rolph

The joys of a garden pond – Part Two



Basking Carp

Carp in ponds need to be seen and they just love to bask in the thick pond weed on a hot sunny day in mid summer, they never seem to get sunburnt! Fish need oxygen, not food as much.

The siting of the pond is the most critical thing to think about when building this garden feature. Not under trees, not in the sun all day, but in semi - shade. A bridge is useful for them to hide under and plenty of reeds, rushes and irises. Pack the pond with the three types of oxygenating weed, Hornwort. (*Ceratophyllum*), *Elodea Densa* and Milfoil and introduce a few water lilies, water Hawthorne and yellow king cups for spring colour.

Getting the right balance between fish, weed and sunlight is the key to success. Do not over feed, the hotter the weather, the more they will eat. I use Tetra Variety sticks in summer and wheat germ in winter, but very sparingly. Pumps, filter boxes and UVs are necessary in a well stocked

pond in full daylight, or you will get blanket weed, duckweed and green algae. The German made pumps Oase are the best and look for flow rates of at least 2000 galls per hour. Bear in mind the head height, as pumping uphill one metre will halve the delivery volume of water. My ponds are 6000 gallons with a stream between the two, pumped uphill 75 feet in a 2 inch pipe buried beneath the stream, a rise and fall of 2 feet on a natural sloping garden. Some ponds have expensive gravity fed filter boxes, or bankside raised boxes with built in UV tubes to cut down the algae. Clear water is essential to view the colourful koi, rudd and comets. My pond also has an overflow rainwater reservoir of 1500 gallons and various water butts discharging excess water into the pond in drought conditions like that which we experienced in April!

During my days at Kent Garden Ponds, I built and serviced hundreds of ponds from small 500 gallon preformed fibreglass ones to rubber lined jobs of over 25000 gallons and small natural lakes. I learnt so much about fish behaviour which can be very appertaining to fishing like when and when not to go! Fish feed according to temperature and atmospheric pressure and I am convinced, the phases of the moon.



The bridge

Most fish, except orfe, love a good thunderstorm in summer and in my fishing days these were when the best catches were made. I well remember being in a boat at Bewl the afternoon before the Great Storm of Oct 15th 1987. Black skies and a record low pressure system made the trout go mad and I couldn't stop catching them! Dave Rudd was also there that day, an afternoon to remember and the boats were called in at 4 pm. Carp and Catfish also love thundery weather and fishing in the other great storm of 15 Sept 1968, I got drenched, the day that Cannon Bridge at Tonbridge was washed away. I was, however, night fishing at Claydon Lake 100 miles away for catfish where the dam nearly gave way discharging dozens of baby cats down the stream. Yes we did save many of them, don't ask!

As well as building ponds, I serviced existing ones and sometimes dug out by hand feet of silt and muck from the bottom of ponds that hadn't been touched for 30 years or more. I recommend that ponds should be emptied and cleaned out every 6 years or so, with



My lower pond, note heron netting

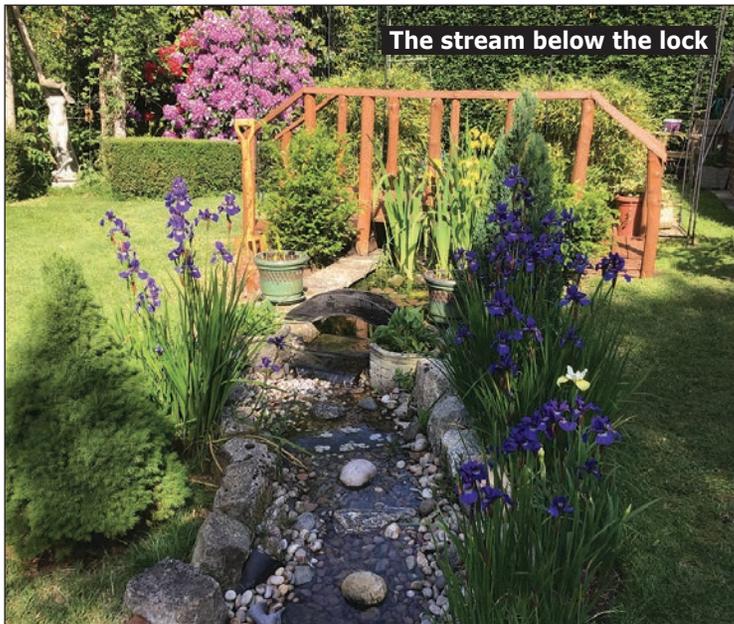


Building the miniature lock gates



Bobs Lock, Chilham

water lilies and plants divided and re-potted, and the hoardes of baby fish thinned out. In a well balanced pond the water CAN be crystal clear if the right balance between fish and weed is maintained. The natural biological breakdown of silt on the pond floor harbours larvae and insect life that the fish thrive on. My pond has regular hatches of dragonfly, damsel fly, buzzers and sedges, reminiscent of the great days on the trout reservoirs in the 1970s before insecticides got into the waters!



The stream below the lock

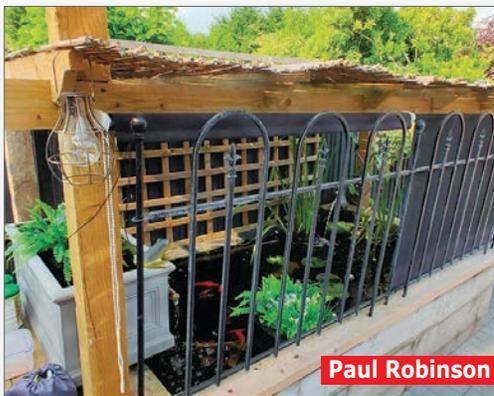
So to sum up, my TOP 10 TIPS for a successful garden pond are:

- 1 Site in semi shade and dig it deep
- 2 Grow fish on from 1 inch fry
- 3 Install plenty of oxygenating weed
- 4 Some cover, ie bridge or water lilies
- 5 Running water stream or waterfall
- 6 Feed sparingly, only as much as they will eat in 10 mins.
- 7 Cover half in winter with insulation boards.
- 8 Feed morning and evening in spring and summer
- 9 Feed twice a week in Autumn and Winter.
- 10 Leave them alone to bask in the mid summer hot sun, my Koi line up side by side in the weed like a tin of sardines and just enjoy the sun and oxygen!

I've learnt so much about fish behaviour by studying my fish. I'm sure that they can tell the time, as they always congregate at the feeding point at 8am and 8pm during the summer months. They get a bit confused though when the clocks go back!!

Next month, I will about the great heydays of the Trout Reservoirs during the 1970s, in particular Bewl Water, when you had to get there the night before to gain a swim at dawn on May 1st 1978 and May 1st 1977 at Rutland Water, and Grafham, but that's another story!

Bob Rolph



Paul Robinson



Tim Mullis



Austin Battell

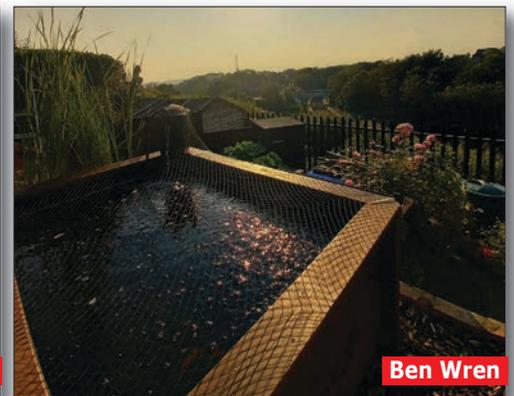
...and here's a selection of your garden pond photos



Simon Fowler



Andy Forster



Ben Wren



Ron Davis



Steve Gliddon



Roy Brett

Medway Man

Bob Morris

Although most of the restrictions relating to the Covid 19 situation are now officially lifted here, it is likely that it will be a long time before normal behaviour is resumed and I think that many old ways/practices that have formerly been regarded as safe and without problem, will now be treated as a potential risk by many. Face masks in particular are likely to remain with us to some extent and hopefully the habit of washing hands more frequently will persist and help to combat the spread of various other viruses including colds and Flu.

Whether, or not, there will be any lasting effect on the fishing front I am not sure, but, I have noticed on a couple of recent river trips that several anglers who came up to talk to me were keeping to their 2m distance and one even put on his mask. I must say that this was in the vicinity of a marina so that may have been the reason for this. Probably it will be in tackle shops and angling shows that this will be most evident. I must say that I do not like wearing a mask, but I will be happy to do so anywhere, if I feel that it is a good idea for both mine and others protection.



Tench on float

I have not managed to get much river fishing in as yet, but have started on a new stretch that I have never fished before at this time of year. On the first visit (an afternoon trip) I thought that I had got off to a flying start when after only about forty minutes on top of a baited patch my right hand tip pulled round hard and I connected with a decent fish. This had me guessing for a couple of minutes as I felt sure that it was either a carp or a barbel, both of which were certainly on the cards here. Unfortunately when it did surface and roll over it turned out to be a very lean and mean looking pike of about eight pounds.

Easy to be disappointed, but you can only get what is there and it was very exciting. As you can imagine the rest of the session was totally blank, but I am going to try doing a late evening session there next time (soon after writing this) and I must say that I am now really looking forward to it as this stretch of river is a bit of an unknown quantity for me as far as expectations are concerned and this always 'floats my boat' as they say.

I have been continuing with my tench fishing activities with mixed results. Several productive sessions on the float with at least half a dozen or more good bites have been interspersed with complete blanks under similar conditions and I can only put this down to location and timing as there appears to be nothing wrong with the tactics that I am using when I am on

the fish. My experiments with the feeders are also continuing successfully although, probably due to the recent rise in temperature, most action has now been at about a rod length out, making the float a much more suitable method - which is pleasing. I have been, as usual, applying various versions of the traditional 'lift method' which as described in previous issues greatly helps me to avoid striking at liners/false bites and then potentially spooking the fish out of the swim - or worse still foul hooking one.

I am now fairly sure that my earlier failure to contact the tench, on a couple of venues, was pretty well down to spawning activity, which was late this year due to the prolonged cold snap during the spring. Having said that there were a couple of lakes where I noticed that the carp were spawning fairly early this year and also the fish in my garden pond, mainly goldfish and crucians, were similarly quick off the mark to get at it. Spawning on the river was certainly late this year and may have affected the new season catches in one way or another.



Wrong species but exciting.



Lift Method - Bob's Favourite



Bubbles near to float - excellent



Spawning late in some places

Sometimes heavier fish are caught due to the retention of spawn and I remember a few years back when I was chub fishing early season and landed a couple of six pounders on a stretch of the Medway where a five is normally regarded as a good catch. I am not obsessed with the weight of fish at all these days, but that is an example of how much difference the prevailing weather conditions/temperatures can make. I am always amazed that many specialist tench anglers give up fishing for them at this time of the year as they are 'apparently' lighter and so less desired after they have spawned. I am really glad that I do not have this sort of 'score sheet' mentality anymore - although, of course, it is always still great to get a big fish!



A big tench - it has spawned!

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Thanks also to the many magazine subscribers for their kind donations!

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

After a 'topsy turvy' year, the schools have now broken up for the Summer and you can all enjoy some well earned time off from your studies. Many of you will no doubt be going on holiday with your families and in some cases will be packing the fishing rods as well as your suitcases! I hope you all enjoy the break! If you do manage to do some fishing during your holidays, don't forget to send us your catch photos for the Junior Informer Photo Album. Remember that Pallatrax chooses two lucky winners each month to receive one of their 'Ready, Steady Fish' packs.

On the subject of catch photos, please remember that we do require the permission of your parents or guardians to publish in the magazine. This is a safeguarding requirement for those under 16.

The support of our sponsors listed above makes the Junior Informer possible. If you would like to become a Junior Informer sponsor please do get in touch! Having your logo displayed at the top of the page for a year shows everyone that your business supports and encourages junior anglers! Please email, call or send a message to the Facebook page if you would like to become a sponsor. Contact details are at the bottom of the inside front cover. Thank you.

Tygh loves his fishing!

Tygh's grandmother, Lisa Hopkins, sent me this great report about her fishing mad grandson:



"Tygh has been fishing since he was about 4. My father taught me to fish as a youngster and I have passed my very limited knowledge on to Tygh, who is now 9. He has become a far better fisherman than I was ever likely to be!

He has a great sensitivity towards the fish and cares for them well. To date his biggest carp was just under 30lbs, but sadly we have no photos of this fish as our priority was to return it to the water as soon as possible and its weight was too heavy for Tygh to lift etc. I hope you will enjoy some of the photos I am sending in as much as Tygh enjoyed catching them. It would mean so much to him to achieve a photo in the magazine. Apart from the lovely fishermen we have met along our way, he just has his two nutty grandmas to encourage and congratulate him!"



Kind regards, Lisa Hopkins



Ollie gets his first ray!

Steve Bates sent in this report after he took his son Ollie for a beach session in the hope of Ollie catching his first ray:

"We had a great session on the sand the other night at Dymchurch with a good friend David Wood-Brignall and what a cracker of an evening it turned out to be out as well!

After many trips of trying to get Ollie his first ray, he bagged a hat-trick and they all gave him a great fight to the shore, very happy for him!



To top it off Dave, fishing to our left was having a great session with a nice mixed bag fish, Ollie had never seen a hound before and with Dave very kindly setting the hook, passed his rod to Ollie for him to reel in his first hound and he was made up, a big shout out to you Dave, thank you mate! Ollie's rays fell to peeler and to bluey and sandeel wraps on pulley pennels. We left the beach at 9.45 as the last of the light dropped away and picked up a couple of Malteser Mcflurries on the way home to celebrate!"



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!



Isaac Truss

WINNERS

Freddy Joe Beaney



The two lucky winners for July
well done!



Louie & Izzy at Newdigate Farm Fishery



Monte - 7lbs 6ozs Claygate Lakes



The Wiggins family at Orchard Place Farm



Becky Bates - 10lbs Club Water



Dolly with her first surface caught carp



Fayth Turner at Claygate Lakes



Ashton Scrace at Kingscote Fishery



Riley-Jack Norden at Clive Vale Reservoir



Steve Mack & son Charlie on Stumps Lake at Frant Lakes



Taylor Wiggins - 17lbs 3ozs Orchard Place Farm



Isabella Johnson



Taylor Wiggins at Orchard Place



Shane Hynes at Greenacres

Email your Catch Photo to the Freshwater Informer at:
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PALLATRAX
Catch more fish



Coaching Coarse Fishing - A Summer Update

from coach Warren White



Fishing in schools has always been popular, but since Covid we have seen the demand go through the roof!



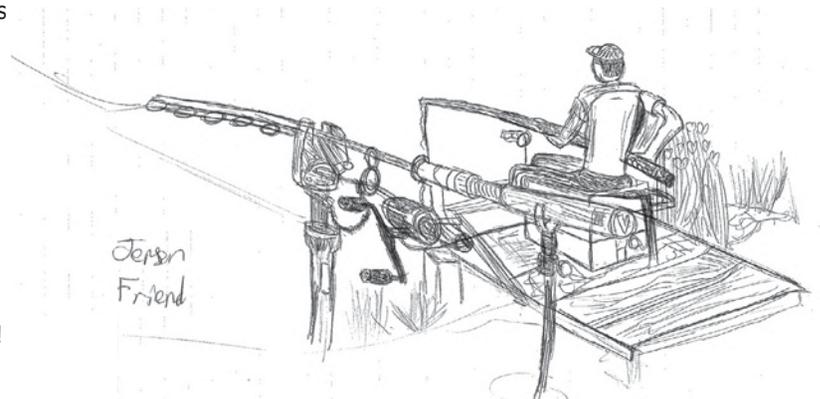
I think because young people have been stuck indoors due to all the lockdowns recently, their motivation is to get outdoors and perform an outside activity. This year at Fishing 4 Schools in Kent we have been able to fund four schools to take part in our Fishing Courses, with a waiting list of schools wanting to get on the programme.

Since the beginning of May, when we normally start our Fishing courses, we have worked with three schools: The Malling school, Maidstone, The Cornwallis Academy, Maidstone and Thamesview school, Gravesend. On these courses we deliver the Cast Award L1 Course, which teaches a student the basics of Fishing; assembling a rod reel or pole, casting, playing and landing fish, unhooking fish (lip hooking, disgorging, holding and handling fish) as well as some Health and Safety issues in fishing and learning the Countryside Code. These courses are enjoyed by the students and school staff and the schools like the idea that the course is well structured and the students can go on to earn a certificate.

What stands out for me is how unique these courses are due to the fact that we have coarse fishing coaches and fly fishing coaches which means that we are able to teach an array of fishing skills including Whip, Pole, Pellet Wagglers, Feeder, Wagglers and Fly style surface fishing for Carp. I wish I could have had the opportunity to go on one of these courses when I was a lad!

The highlights from the courses are as well as teaching the students we have also been able to teach the teachers how to fish, in the hope that they too will then be able to take the young people themselves which was evident when we worked with The Malling school. On a really hot day at Monk Lakes one lad sat in the shade of a tree and sketched an excellent picture of his teacher fishing, this will be entered in to this year's F4S Art Competition, a competition that we run annually.

At the Cornwallis Academy we saw the emergence of a terrific young female angler, Ruby Powell, she was a young lady full of character. She turned up at the first session of the course at Grove Farm, Hadlow College, keen, vocal, but certainly done the business! Ruby ended up catching 8 good sized Carp, surface fishing, Fly style. What a performance! Once she got back to school and told her friends about her exploits the teacher at school had numerous enquiries from female students wanting to come on the course!



At the Cornwallis school, like some other of our schools in the last few weeks, we have had some disruption to our work because of students having to self-isolate, which has meant, in some cases, less students turning up. In one session at the Cornwallis Academy it looked like the whole group would be missing for the session, but luckily, the teacher was able to bring in a whole new group of students to fill the gap. It just goes to show how many young people are waiting in the wings to try fishing!

At Thamesview school, one of our old schools, they once again produced a terrific group of keen novice fisherman who wanted to learn more. This year's course was funded by the Kent Community Foundation and we always like to offer our funders a chance of seeing where their money is being spent so we invited two representatives to attend one of our fishing sessions. What a lovely day, with plenty of skills taught and some great catches, the funders went away really impressed and the offer of a bigger slice of funding next year.

Every Thursday for the last 14 years I have been working with Rowhill (SEN) School, Longfield, a school just up the road and in the same road that I live in. If you are talking about a Model school of Fishing this is it! Since first joining the school, where the PE teacher got me involved, the school hasn't looked back and the PE teacher is

now the headmaster. The school has a partnership with Fishing 4 Schools, the idea being F4S fund the primary students at the school where the pupils get their interest for fishing, which is a stepping stone to eventually having the opportunity to go onto a 2 year BTEC Fishery course. We have taught many angling courses since I have been at the school including the Cast Awards, Aims Award etc. However, the pinnacle is the BTEC Fishery course, as it is the one most schools recognise and is the one Hadlow College use in the Higher Educational courses. This course is run from Grove Farm, Fishery at Hadlow and the beauty of it is we have a lodge (classroom) just metres away from the lake. This facility and the fishing is outstanding.

This course is made up of a group of up to six students, who can be challenging in school, but because they really enjoy fishing and nature and the important fact is that they have chosen to come on the course, they behave exemplary when out with us. We have, to date, seen a staggering high amount of students completing the BTEC course and getting the qualification. You get some lads that are mad keen fisherman and will fish all day, then you will get the student that is more into nature so it still works.



This year's group of BTEC students had their final day with us this week (mid July) before they leave school. All the students have completed the BTEC Fishery course and passed the qualification, a lot of hard work went into this because they had to catch up on the paperwork, due to the Covid lockdowns

at school. The most pleasing news is that two of the lads on our course, Jack and Callum, have applied for a place on a BTEC Fishery course at Hadlow college and have been successful in gaining a place. We also have two others from the F4S programme that are starting at the college at the same time, which is a great opportunity for the lads to get a future career in Fishing. It also means the world to me and all the other F4S coaches that have put a lot of work into these students over the last 4 years.

For some of the students that struggle at school and due to our alternative methods of teaching, the reward for getting your paperwork completed is to be able to go fishing, it is surprising how quickly the pupils get their work done when you dangle this carrot! This year due to Covid and the lockdowns at the school, we hadn't run our normal taster sessions to see who would be coming on next year's BTEC Fishing course. I hastily arranged some Taster Days with the school in the Spring and was overwhelmed by the large demand in students wanting to take part. A great idea at the school is that the students get an option of Cooking, Challenger group (Army cadets), Archway (motorbikes) and Fishing. From this year's options, of the 14 that tried, nearly all want to do the Fishery course!



The upshot of this is that both myself and David Evans, the other Fishing coach at the school, have been offered more days at the school to teach fishing. The school realises the benefits the students gain from Fishing and are putting their 'money where their mouths are' in bringing more fishing to the school. What a forward thinking school they are!

Warren White

We have received some great feedback from students and teachers following the courses and here is a snapshot of some of the feedback:

From the students:

"The team have taught me how to use the disgorger and how to hold a fish properly. When I caught a 15lb carp on my own, Warren helped me by telling me to play it out and when to reel it in. He also showed me how to put it back in the water and how to hold the net."

"I knew nothing about fishing when I started and they have taught me everything about fishing. I learned how to cast a line out, use a disgorger and how to handle fish. They are funny and really help you out."

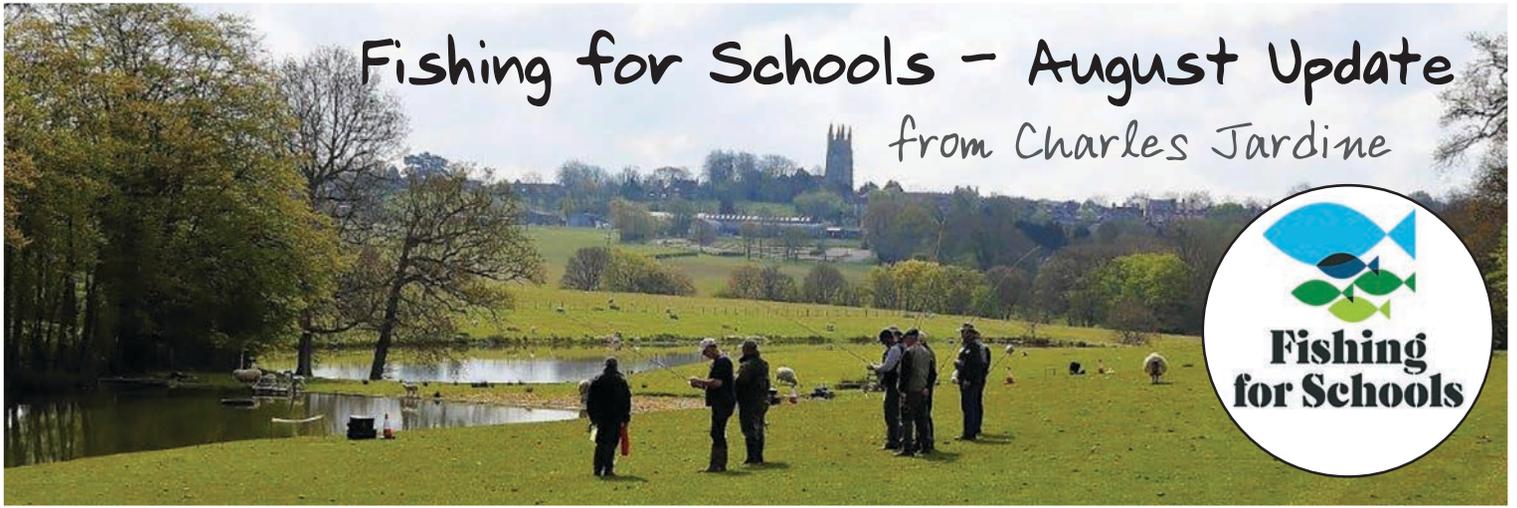
From the staff:

"I have been so impressed by the knowledge of the coaches and the calm and patient way they have taught the boys. They have been encouraging them to learn new skills each week and the boys have really enjoyed the experience. It has been wonderful to see them grow in confidence. Thank you all so much"

I would like to sincerely thank Brian Bailey, Fishery Manager at Hadlow College for his help on the BTEC course and the link to the college for our students. Thanks also to T.W.A.P.S Angling club for the use of their waters, a club that likes to promote juniors, and to Monk Lakes for the use of their waters and they, like us, want to promote young people into Fishing."

Fishing for Schools - August Update

from Charles Jardine



With a Summer term almost passed in a blink of an eye, it is quite astonishing to look back on how Fishing for Schools has risen from the pandemic 'ashes' and continued within the school world as it once did.



Throughout May into June and now July, Fishing for Schools has carried on regardless; sessions at Hadlow College, Monk Lakes, Cottington lakes near Deal (A fabulous complex and so prolific) and Coombewood (equally productive and fabulously well run). Throughout it all, young people have learnt, had fun, grown as people and potentially are the anglers of the future.

All of this comes through total commitment at all levels, myself and the office back room team, but primarily the coaches and in Kent we have some of the VERY best: Kevin Durman, Warren White, Bob Goble, Ian Tucker, David Evans and those unsung heroes: the teachers. But let us not forget TA's (Teaching Assistants) and also the fantastic charitable Trusts whom donate and fund much of what we do, our angling oxygen. It is the true meaning of "team work".

Of course, it must be remembered, that this is duplicated throughout many other regions and Fishing for Schools has become a very important part of both, the alternate educational world and the young people who participate nationally.



So much has happened; so many good things. So much positivity.

In early May, we held our much postponed "Skills Day" at the wonderful and beautiful Tenterden Trout Waters at the very kind hospitality of Gaynor and Richard Stokes. What a day! We had demonstrations from F4S coaches, Lee Hooper, Rob Barden, Bob Goble, Dave Woods with help from Kevin Wiley, Lead teacher at Bower Grove in Maidstone, and an absolutely full attendance. For me it was returning to the water that defined me as a stillwater fisher and gosh, how I love it. Your first love is always the deepest, isn't it? This was my first lake-love!



Like every other charitable organisation, we face the future with more question marks than hard plans. No one knows just how the summer will play out given the rising Covid numbers; all I do know is that Fishing for Schools will meet that challenge head on, as it has in the past year and a half, be creative, inspire young people and get them fishing. It is what we do best!

Next time I will bring you the announcement of another Angling initiative, one that goes way beyond the normal and touches people in a similar, but slightly different way than F4S does. We have some very exciting times ahead."

Tight loops and singing reels, Charles

Angling Societies

The Linton Angling Society - Membership Vacancies

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Contact Martyn on **07802 248861**



Hastings Bexhill & District Freshwater Angling Association

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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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TROUT INFORMER

Brick Farm Lakes

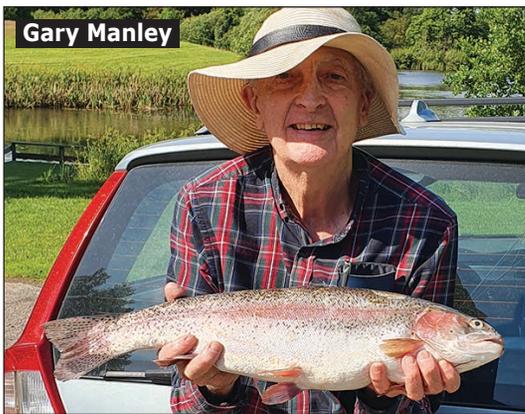
Herstmonceux, East Sussex

Despite the warmer conditions of recent days, the lakes have been fishing reasonably well, with Buzzers, Crunchers, Diawl Bach and Wet Daddies proving the most successful. As always, Blue Flash Damselfly will be known to catch well also. **Ray Burt** was thrilled with a 7 fish bag – each fish caught from a different swim which he has never caught from before. Also, regular angler **Mr Manley** was pleased with his 5.4lb rainbow which was the biggest fish he caught that day in difficult conditions. We have seen several lovely bags being returned to the scales, particularly by those anglers using smaller flies and making the most of our flexible opening hours.

We are open from 5am on Saturdays throughout July and August and 7.30 for the rest of the week. Our closing times remain flexible – if anglers are on site then we will happily stay open until sunset, otherwise we will close 2 hrs before sunset (as per BBC weather).



Ray Burt



Gary Manley

Check out the Brick Farm Lakes advert alongside a great write-up on the fishery by Andy Lush overleaf.



3 fish bag

Tenterden Trout Waters

Tenterden, Kent

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Lure Fishing

Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman

Lure Fishing

Brick Farm Trout Fishery [BN27 4RS]

Finally some better weather, and with that a hatch of fly anglers! Brick Farm was a hive of activity when I arrived for my recent visit. It's so pleasing to see fly fishing has captured the imagination of a new generation of anglers since the 'lockdowns'.



A superb fin perfect specimen from Well Lake

I needed to start fishing! I quickly selected two flies for my floating line set up, a buzzer on the point and a UV Diawl Bach on the dropper. The wind chopped and changed direction several times making casting an issue in the spot I'd chosen. Fortunately, it changed again just as I spotted a fish swirl sub-surface about 20 yards out to my right. I quickly covered the fish, straightened my leader and while holding my breath I started a very slow retrieve. The tip of my leader suddenly jabbed under and I lifted into my first fish of the day, brilliant!

Next a short walk to Stag Lake where I saw Rob Barden giving two anglers a casting lesson as well as offering fishing advice. Bob's a very experienced fly fisherman, someone I've known for too many years to count. Rob was a ranger at Bewl Water until he retired, but his wealth of knowledge is too valuable to waste and now he teaches at Brick Farm, contact Phil or Danni at the fishery to book a session with 'the man'.

I ventured into the downwind section of Stag Lake as the fish definitely seemed to be more concentrated at this end of the wind. Casting into the wind was difficult here and although I could see fish, presenting my flies in a suitable manner wasn't easy. My floating line was drifting too fast so I moved across the bay to get a little shelter and a better angle to aid presentation. The fish were too far out so I reduced my leader's length to get a better 'turn over' and also add some extra distance. I moved back to my first choice spot,



Great to see Richard ? Pop? Larkin enjoying himself

I had arranged to meet my old mate Richard 'Pop' Larkin and Bob Hussey. Fishing has taken on a more social aspect for me recently, maybe it's been the isolation or maybe it's just retirement? Phil and Danni Axell were on hand to 'meet and greet' their guests as usual, they run such a friendly fishery which set the tone for the day. As always the atmosphere and excitement was infectious and I was keen to get started.

Phil had warned me that he'd stocked the previous day and I might find the fishing a bit too easy. With that in mind I thought it was a good idea to try and catch a fish from each of the four lakes that make up the fishery. I headed to Well Lake first and as I arrived 'Pop' Larkin was already playing a fish. Before I could tackle up we heard Bob Hussey shout he'd hooked one of Brick Farm's 'biggies'. We found Bob battling a super Rainbow and as it appeared from the depths of the crystal clear water we could see it was indeed a big fish, wow what a start.



One happy angler Bob Hussey with this 6lb 12oz Rainbow

but changed my line to a Rio 'midge tip long'. The 6ft intermediate sink tip 'dug in' enough to slow my lines drift speed, keeping me in direct contact with my flies but now they were fishing too deep. You solve one problem only to create another! I now changed my point fly to a buoyant Ham and Cheese FAB - Foam Arsed Blob. Using a buoyant point fly in this manner is known as fishing the 'washing line'. This tactic is very useful when fish are staying very close to the surface and the weight of your fly line or fluorocarbon leader is taking your fly or flies too deep. After a frustrating struggle with the wind and the fish I'd finally found a winning combination that suited the conditions. Having no takes for nearly an hour, I then missed two before hooking the third, 'three times and you're out'.

Next stop was Brick Lake, the original water on the fishery, here it was very sheltered and I very quickly concluded that my 'midge tip' was forcing me to retrieve too fast in an effort to keep my flies shallow enough, but not before I'd missed a couple of takes! After the previous hour with no takes I was now getting takes galore, but not hooking up. I changed back to the floater with the same 'washing line' system which allowed me to creep my flies just sub-surface and instantly it was 'fish on'. I took a break now as my day was going to finish too quickly and I wanted to savour the moment.

I noticed the occasional Mayfly hatching, not enough to excite the fish, but good to see nevertheless. I ate my lunch while watching the water. I'd not fished this lake before so it was good to get a 'feel' for the water, getting to see where other anglers were catching fish is time well spent.

I'd left the best til' last! Spring Lake is the newest on the complex and is fast becoming my favourite. The novelty of having such deep water, over 20ft at my disposal ensures sport during the 'dog days of summer'. The lake was empty of anglers who were lurching on the veranda outside the fishing lodge. I chose a casting platform that gave me access to broken, rippled water; the



Frank's suitably pleased with this Rainbow



Frank Bloomfield scooping a Spring Lake Rainbow

ripple hides your line which with such clear water and bright sunlight was an advantage I was keen to exploit. I pondered on whether I should try fishing deeper, underneath the new stockies that were occupying the upper layers of water? I changed my point fly, off came the buoyant FAB and on went a tungsten beaded black buzzer. A long downwind cast put my flies over the deep water middle section; I counted my flies down before gently retrieving them back towards the bank. Next cast and I repeated the retrieve but this time I gave two long, slow smooth pulls to lift the flies upwards, then a pause to let them fall quickly back towards the bottom. The line straightened and I lifted into my final fish of the day, slightly bigger than the others but not a monster.

What a day and yet another fishery that demands a return visit soon.

Tight lines, Andy Lush



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

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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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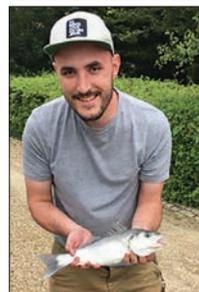
As we head in to the last of the summer months, we have not had a prolonged period of settled conditions. Indeed, at the time of writing, there seems to be a never ending queue of low pressure systems waiting out in the Atlantic! However, at the time of writing this, there does appear to be something more settled

and seasonal around the corner. We can but hope! The weed situation along the North Kent coast has been problematic for anglers and many have ventured to other venues to find some sport. However, for those that have persevered, some fine fish have been caught. This month should see the weed abate and conditions become more favourable. The mackerel have yet to venture close in as the water has been very coloured, but with some calmer conditions on the horizon the water should clear and the fish will follow. Some mackerel have been caught, but not many. Some welcome soles are now showing from Kent and Sussex beaches making a welcome change of species. The sea temperature is currently at around 17 degrees.



Thames report courtesy of Wayne May "Bass have been showing in numbers from Gravesend to Erith, it has also been a strange month on the Thames as on some days there has been no bite indication at all yet others where the rods don't stop rattling! We fished Greenhithe recently blanking during the day, and the following night landed several flatties and an eel, as morning approached the school bass showed with a 4lbs bass for our efforts. Gravesend and the Ship and Lobster produced small numbers of sole, flatties and school bass. Frozen Dungey blacks and fresh ragworm were the choice of baits for the sole. The Thames estuary has produced a lot of activity with the hounds this year, some reaching double figures. Charlie Gold from Gravesend recently landed over 30 smoothounds on one trip with his friends. Charter boats are landing similar catches with the smoothounds and rays plentiful this year."

NJ Tackle at Gravesend has a wide range of bait and tackle. Call them on 01474 353998.



Medway report The river has been pretty quiet of late. Fishing should improve as the size of tides reduces. Bass, eels and mullet are main species caught with ragworm being best bait. Still lots of crab activity in the river so worth popping up your bait to keep them out of the reach of the claws! **Medway Tackle Supplies at Twydall has a great range of fresh and frozen baits and a good selection of tackle. Call 01634 475260.**

Sheppey report courtesy of Sheppey

Angling "All marks have been fishing well around the island. Flounders and bass are showing along the Leysdown side and plenty of rays, smoothounds and bass along the North shoreline. Night tides have been more productive. Rag and squid have been the favoured baits as crab has been in short supply. The weed has been an issue more so on the ebb but August should see the weed problem receding."



For all your tackle and bait requirements visit Mick at Sheppey Angling. Call 01795 661089.



North Kent report During the past few weeks the weed has continued to hinder fishing considerably. However, there have been a few 'windows of opportunity' and some very nice smoothounds, rays and bass have been caught. The weed situation does seem to have been considerably worse this year for some reason, but hopefully as August progresses the weed will recede. **Absolute Tackle can supply fresh and frozen baits and has a good range of tackle. Call 01227 636724.**

Deal report courtesy of Channel Angling Deal "At the moment we are getting quite a few bass on lugworm and ragworm although live prawn would be better. The pier seems to be the better option for the bass. The pier is fully open now with no restrictions on the number of anglers. There has been quite a few strap congers mostly on the pier with fish baits with one over 10lbs, large fish baits best for those. A few smoothound coming on crab, although ragworm or squid can also do the trick. There has also been the odd thornback ray, they seem to pop up out of the blue occasionally. The wind direction hasn't been ideal for the mackerel with persistent north east breezes keeping the water murky, but that could change by the time you read this. There are not so many dogfish now, you'll be pleased to know. Beach is fishing better after dark with bass, smoothound and dogfish. Fish close in for bass around about high tide and avoid shining headlights on the water. Well enjoy your fishing and keep safe."

Call Fred at Channel Angling Deal for your bait, tackle and local advice on 01304 373104.

Dover report Shakespeare Beach has seen smoothounds, rays and bass along with a few mackerel. However, the unsettled weather throughout the last few weeks has hindered water clarity. The beginning of this month is expected to be warm and settled so we will see mackerel arrive. Early morning and evening tides best bet. Samphire Hoe has seen some nice wrasse caught. Other species include pouting, pollack, a few mackerel and some bass.

Call Channel Angling at Dover on 01304 203742 for all your tackle and bait requirements and great local fishing advice.





Folkestone report courtesy of Folkestone Angling "Both the pier and beach have been fishing well with a good mix of species for anglers. The colour in the water is seemingly stubborn to clear which is probably the main reason why the mackerel have yet to venture inshore in any numbers. However, the boats are finding plenty just a couple of miles out. At the time of writing we are entering a calm settled warm period, so let's hope the high pressure and light winds cause the water to clear. Some nice hounds to around 7lbs for both shore and beach anglers along with some dabs and plaice. Dogfish, whiting and pouting feature among catches and it has been good to see a number of conger eels up to 6lbs. Pier anglers are catching some good



wrasse and bass fishing ragworm or fish baits down the wall either on booms or under a float."

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

Hythe report courtesy of Steve Bates "Hythe and Dymchurch have been fishing reasonably well over the past month. There are still plenty of the usual suspects about at the moment with dogfish in abundance, odd dab, and whiting. Still no sign of the early soles yet. The spider crabs can prove to be a problem at times, but reports are not coming in as thick and as fast as they were. There have been a few more rays starting to show again, but still not as prolific as they have been. Picking the right tide in an evening with a light south westerly may help to move a few inshore. The mackerel



are still a bit thin on the ground, still the odd one showing over the late afternoon high tides, hopefully we will start to see a few more shoals moving through with the settled weather. The good news as always, with the mackerel shoals is the chance for a big bass. There have been a few decent bass caught on the lure and baits fished at short range behind the breakers at night. The odd small hound has also showed with a couple of bigger ones thrown in for good measure, so you should still definitely have a few crabs in the bait bag too for this species as they pass through. Pulley pennels baited with fish baits or squid should help you find the rays and fresh lug on clipped down rigs or flappers should help you find most other species, crab fished on long pulley drop down should help find hounds. **Local tackle shops are Dens Tackle 01303 267053 and Best Buddies 01303 487144** With the lifting of lockdown, please do still stay alert, keep safe, and stay well. Tight lines, Stevie."

Eastbourne report courtesy of Tony's Tackle "Sarah Croft landed a massive 42lbs tope from the shore recently, a huge achievement of dedication to angling The past month has been patchy, good fishing on the night tides with hounds which have been feeding spasmodically appearing and disappearing just as quick, however, many anglers have smashed there PBs to bits strangely in the last two weeks! Many small pups have appeared and the larger hounds have been eating squid and lugworm showing that crab is not the be all and end all. Matches have been consistently wrecked this month, but have thrown up new winners which is a great advert for match angling. Top baits have been fresh lug and ragworm and crab. The thornbacks seem to have disappeared but soles are arriving in numbers as we speak, small hooks and short casting being the order of the day. Darren Bond had a good catch this week from Eastbourne landing a 6lbs hound, dogfish and twelve soles from Langney at night. There are still plenty of undulate rays from Shoreham and Lancing beaches and you can expect a big stingray from Bognor area this month on ragworm! Eastbourne pier has produced smoothhounds, bass, plaice and some top quality bream. Mackerel should show in numbers very soon with the hot weather forecast. Please try to only take what you need and enjoy the great sport from the shore. This week there has seen quite a few eels caught this month and they have saved a few blanks in the local matches. Some great fish have been caught in the Franks shore matches. Mick Webb landed a 52 cm plaice three weeks ago. Eastbourne boats have caught plenty of rays and tope to 40lbs plus and quite a few good size bass. Manks Belle and Top Catt both landed great catches from the Light tower area and local wrecks. Panther has caught cod, pollack and some quality thornbacks. Book if you can as I know they are all extremely busy and same goes for our shop bait orders! Have a great month's fishing and please try not to leave rubbish on the beaches."

Call Tony's Tackle on 07821 514853 or 01323 731388 or visit our website www.tonystackle.co.uk. Tight lines, Tony Kirrage.



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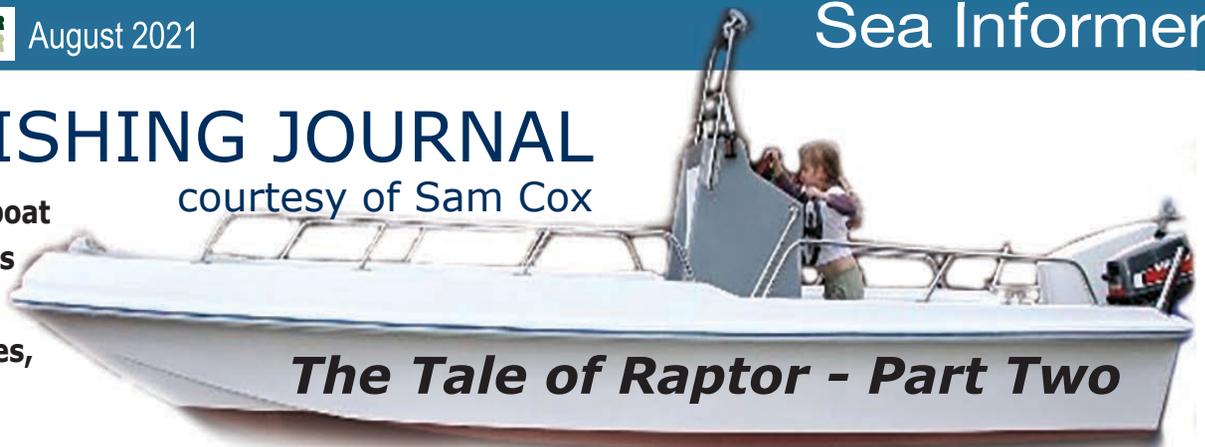
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SAM'S FISHING JOURNAL

courtesy of Sam Cox

Sitting here on our boat at the Norfolk Broads writing this brings back lots of memories, both good and bad!



The Tale of Raptor - Part Two

I left you last month at the point where Raptor was close to being launched. There are many details that I have not mentioned, mainly due to my bad memory, but one of those details that stuck in my mind is the rubber fendering. Del Quay dories were fitted with nice rubber fendering with a smart looking coloured insert from the factory. Dad kindly sourced this fendering along with insert from a firm in Maldon. Installing the main part of the fendering was straightforward, however, the insert was a complete pain. The problem is that both parts are rubber and the insert must be guided into the groove on the main fendering. We ended up tying rope to one end of the insert so it could be pulled, lubricating the groove with washing up liquid and using a wooden wedge in front of the insert to open the groove. The whole performance involved many swear words and took a morning to finish!

Having spent the winter, spring and early summer refitting Raptor I had made a near fatal mistake that would not come to light until splash day. The trailer that Raptor laid on was an old, but solid unit, that I had acquired with another boat a few years previous. This trailer was constructed using a Land Rover axle and some very heavy angle iron. Although structurally sound, I had never checked the wheel bearings. My late friend Matt Lee had agreed to launch me using his dad's Toyota Hilux. Matt hitched the trailer up and we set off from my old house on Dengemarsh to the marina at Burnham-on-Crouch. I was following in my van and two miles up the road plumes of sparks started coming from the wheels! We stopped, assessed the situation and decided to press on at 30mph. The launch went well and the trailer was parked in the marina car park, where it was left. I went back a few days later and much to my delight the trailer was nowhere to be seen!



Sea trials went well with a top speed of 26 knots achieved, as Raptor was to be kept on a swing mooring, she would never dry out, so this speed quickly reduced to 23.5 knots.

That first year I had some decent bass fishing, Matt caught a 45lb tope and we also caught some thornbacks and smoothounds. It would not be until mid-November that I made another near fatal mistake! My good friend Wayne McCully and I had arranged a day's live baiting for bass. The morning started cold, so cold that we had to throw two buckets of water across the deck to clear the ice! Once we had loaded the gear, we set off for Baltic Wharf on the South side of the river Crouch to catch our live baits for the day. We soon had forty odd pouting in the well and set off for the mark some two miles east. Within five minutes Wayne was into a bass, not a big bass, but a couple of pounds. That day we landed forty-seven bass from two pounds to just under four pounds, not big fish, but great fun on the light tackle we were using. Wayne commented that maybe this mark would fish better at night for larger bass, so we arranged to try it at night a few days later when we were both free. As agreed, we met up a few days later an hour or so before dark at Rice & Coles boat yard and again headed to Baltic Wharf to catch our live baits for the night. From memory we struggled to catch many pouting and ended up with only ten. So not to miss the best part of the tide we headed back to the mark previously fished a few days before. It was, by this time, very dark and the lights from Burnham and all the marker buoys had a mesmerising effect on me. This wouldn't normally be a problem, but we were travelling at twenty-two knots along the south side of the Crouch and there was a two-ton starboard hand buoy that I had not seen. It was not until the buoy was six feet from my bow that Wayne shouted a warning. I came to my senses just as the green light on the top of the buoy flashed and our fate was sealed. I throttled back and steered hard to the right, Raptor's right hand quarter of the bow rode up the unforgiving steel buoy before crashing back into the water, leaving a nice red streak of her anti-foul paint behind. Luckily, we were only quarter of a mile from the Rice & Cole jetty and due to being double skinned and full of expanding foam Raptor was practically unsinkable. It was not until the next morning that the full force of my stupidity really hit me, not only did Raptor have a long gash in her hull, but my lack of attention could have killed Wayne and myself! Another hard lesson learnt!



First launch on horrible trailer

In 2008 I decided to move Raptor to Haybridge basin for the winter. My old friend Simon and I would catch many good-sized perch, pike and even tench that winter. Unfortunately, I split up with my daughter's Mum in January 2009 and Raptor was neglected for six months. It would not be until the summer of 2010 that I cleaned her up and Simon un-seized the outboard. I then took her back to the Crouch. She was looking tired and I decided to have her taken out of the water. I had by then moved to Kent and other things took priority, sadly Raptor was left in the yard. Boats do not thrive on neglect and Raptor was no exception. At the back end of 2014 I suggested to Simon that he could do her up and use her as if she were his own. I bought her a new glass fibre centre console and I would pay the insurance and mooring fees. Simon agreed and a few months later Raptor was back on the water. I only used her three times that year, so asked Simon if he minded her being moved to Oare Creek near



She does look good

Oare Creek near



Warren and the 36 fish haul

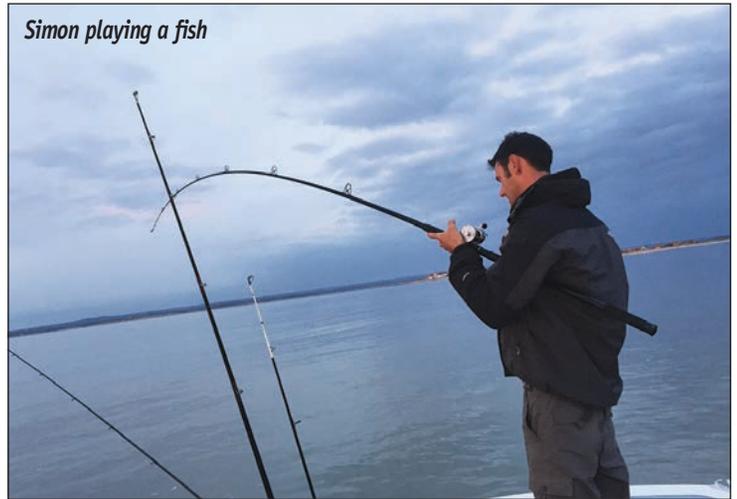
Faversham. I arranged a mooring and a boat transport guy to pick her up and deliver her to Harty Ferry slipway. We then took her to the new mooring at Oare Creek. A week later I took her out on my own for a day's fishing. I had never fished the Swale before, but soon found out that this entire area was full of thornback rays. I tried moving several times to get away from them, but still ended up with 26 of the 'spiney critters'. A few weeks later Warren Hayes and I would catch 36 thornbacks along with smoothounds, bass and even a few flounders.

Later that year Simon came for a day's fishing and after the last two trips fish, squid and crab baits were banned as they only caught thornbacks. We left the mooring with only rag worm baits and intended to fish for bass. As dawn broke bass started hitting the surface. We caught quite a few small bass that morning, up to two and a half pounds, and the day looked promising until the heavens opened. It rained continuously all day. Being an open boat there was no shelter and my mooring only had water in it for

three hours out of twelve. We got soaked and that day I decided to sell Raptor, a decision I still regret very much today. I then bought a horrible 21 feet boat called a Todd Tuna 21 and after throwing lots of money at her, she was also sold!

One day in October 2017 at around 07.00 I was at the Southern end of the Norfolk Broads on a hire boat. I was thinking to myself that Raptor would have been great on the Broads for pike and perch fishing. Two minutes later, emerging from the morning mist was Raptor herself! I rubbed my eyes, pinched myself, but my eyes were not deceiving me, it was her! I steered over to her and there was the guy that I had sold her to two years previously. We chatted for a while and I asked for first refusal should he ever sell her. I have not heard from him so can only hope he is enjoying her still. Refitting and running even a small boat on a budget is easy, if the budget is large, but doing it on a shoestring is like being pecked to death by chickens. Many lost dreams can be seen laying in front gardens and marinas, rapidly approaching a date with the chain saw.

If the truth be known I should have left Raptor in the field I found her in. She gave me some great memories, my dad working on her, my daughter climbing all over her while she sat in our garden, my late mate Matt launching her and catching a 45lb tope from her, the list goes on!



Simon playing a fish



This is the life...

MORE HOUNDS FOR JAMES!



James Clifton had another go at the hounds with his Dad and despite the heavy weed still found them feeding:



"I fished the North Kent coast for hounds one weekend recently and managed a few. My first trip I had six and my dad had two, my biggest going 8lbs 7ozs. My Dad had a double at 10lbs 6ozs. Next night, I was on my own and the weed was much worse and unfishable at times, but I managed four with two being doubles at 10lbs 3ozs and 11lbs 8ozs."

DUNGENESS Latest catch reports on www.seagullfishingtackle.com

Well, we have gone from wet to hot in a week, Summer is here! Dungeness is packed with holiday makers with a lot chasing mackerel as well as a suntan. A lot of visitors love the isolation of Dungeness, funny when they all turn up at once when the sun is out.

BEACH REPORT Reports are mostly from visitors supplying feedback as very few 'anglers' going. Bass have eased back, loads and loads of dogfish, smoothhound, thornbacks in the bays and of course mackerel, so please send those reports in.

Yes...you could knock me down with a feather!

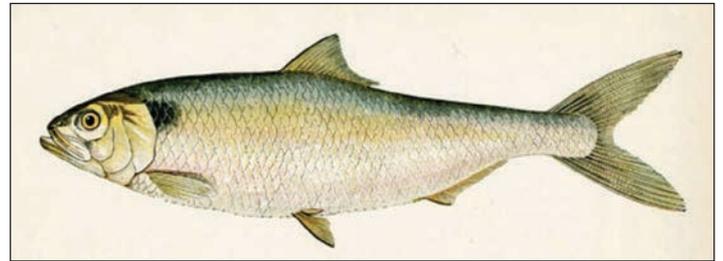
I had this report in from Harry Newbury:



"Hi Tony, Sorry for the late report. I went spinning down at Dungeness last weekend trying for some mackerel or possibly a bass or two. Saturday afternoon was great and just as the sun started to set I was picking up 3 or so bass each time on feathers, they were all schoolies and no bigger than 30 cms. I also had a few mackerel that evening again no bigger than 30cm. On Sunday I didn't catch too much other than foul hooking little mackerel no bigger than a fingernail. I tried my luck again on Monday evening and picked up a few mackerel again. Thank you for the great tackle and advice as always. Harry"

Don't forget the Shad

Every year I get a fish brought in for identification, Shad (either Allis or twaite and both protected) are one of the herring family, who spawn in fresh water. Allis or twaite have about five spots on the flank. My best caught at Dengemarsh weighed in about two and half pounds.



Is this the year of the Smoothound?

Another unusual thing this year is the number of smoothounds being reported, yes mostly pups, but some better

ones as well, as far as I have heard up to around 12 pounds.



Here is a report that has just come in from Paul Lamb:

"Hi, I was told about your catch report page today and was told you might like to see these 2 caught off the beach today near the lighthouse. Regards Paul"

BEACH OUTLOOK FOR AUGUST

Looking forward with my crystal ball as I always say it comes down to the weather. Besides the main summer species, I hope to see some gurnard on the beaches and maybe a few black bream. The big question as August goes on will we see some sole appear?

BEST BAITS Fish baits are great for bass (so are worms and crab) but as the water clears lures, wedges and feathers come into play.

BOAT REPORTS Just over the last couple of weeks we have had some glorious weather producing some glorious catches afloat.

Bass, beautiful bass!

Another great catch from Jerry Oiller of Fairchance fame a couple of days ago launching from Dungeness:

"Fairchance fishing Dungeness 01797 363544 Today. The Three Amigos aboard today, Rob, Twig and Nathan Levi Smith. Drifting the wrecks today, with live mackerel and found a wreck with a nice few bass on it. Oh Happy Days."



Watch out Dave it has teeth!

I saw this posted by Jerry Oiller of Fairchance fame:

"Fairchance fishing Dungeness 01797 363544 Today Foggy Robinson, aboard today along with Chris Cox, Dan P and Ben, not a lot going on today fish wise, Foggy Robinson with a 30 lbs tope, also caught small turbot, small blonde ray, a thornback, a smoothhound, tub gurnard, plenty of mackerel and dogfish. A roaring ebb tide spoil the Day. You can't win them all."





Don't you love Summer fishing!

I saw this posted by Jerry Oiller of Fairchance fame:

"Fairchance fishing Dungeness 01797 363544 Today

A beautiful day to be afloat, very light breeze, calm sea and sunshine. Tried the turbot patch for the first time this year, bites were a bit scarce but we fished on, resulting in four turbot, 2 thornbacks and a nice plump bass. Happy Days."

BOAT OUTLOOK FOR AUGUST

Plenty of the shark family about think nice meaty fish baits, small slivers of squid over the rough ground for bream and anytime now we should see more action from the conger,

BEST BAITS Fish baits rule, squid, bluey, herring and mackerel!



EFFORT EQUALS REWARD FOR RICHARD!



Richard Smith sent in this report after a tough session on the North Kent coast:

"I took a trip to Reculver to target some hounds. The wind was off our backs looking out to a calm sea with a good colour in the water. I used a pulley rig and a 6oz lead. Bait was raw tiger



prawns and the hounds seemed to like them a lot as I was reeling in a hound almost 10 minutes after every cast. The weed was tough to get through, but I persevered to achieve my target."



HASTINGS

report courtesy of Hastings Angling Centre



soles and ray

Very glad to report that the beach fishing for the past week or two at Hastings following the big blow at the start of the month has been some of the best in recent memory. Good soles, rays in number (very unusual for Hastings), bass, hounds and dogs a plenty. Now it has calmed down and cleared out, the mackerel have appeared in good numbers and with them plenty of school bass with a few better ones.

The wind has hampered boat fishing somewhat, but on the days they have got out and the fishing has been



Mark's tope

pretty good. Black bream now present in good numbers on the reefs and wrecks, tope still about in good size and quantity. Best heard of is Mark Fairhurst's one, a good forty pounder. Turbot are proving elusive as yet with only modest numbers and size reported. Bass, codling, pollack and wrasse on the reefs. Plaice seem to be having a poor year with very few decent ones being had.

Prospects for August; On the beach, if the sea is calm and clear, mackerel will be in and the bass close behind, ideal for lure fishing. Into darkness for rays, soles and strap conger along with the inevitable whiting. If it is rough and the sea colours up then soles rays and bass during the day.

For the boats bass and black bream on the wrecks and turbot on the banks prime targets. Hopefully the plaice fishing will pick up. The tope and rays will still be there as well.



Kwame and ray



Kwame and sole



Dave and ray

OUT AND ABOUT WITH ANDY by Andrew Cook

Well Worth The Walk, Again!

Back to one of my favourite Island marks again for this session meeting up with Paul Hunter once more. It's a known hound and ray location with the chance of a stingray as well and I've had some good sessions here over the past few months so I was quietly confident.

I was on the mark at 3:15pm (HW 7:15) after the 30 minutes drive followed by the 30 minute walk, not for the faint-hearted this one. The water had just reached the shingle and it was pretty calm and coloured but there was a line where the water was clearing about a 1/3rd of a mile out. It was pretty warm, but the gentle NE breeze was enough to keep it comfortable until it cooled off and the wind disappeared altogether.



The usual two rod set up again, one with a short pulley rig and fresh peeler, the other with a longer pulley and big rag baits. Ten minutes into the session and I had a small rattle on the rag which didn't come to anything. Five minutes later and a better bite so I lifted into it. There was a bit of weight and every now and then I felt the fish bumping along the sea floor. On the shingle and it was a double shot, a small bass had hooked itself on the pennel and a half decent eel on the bottom hook. Oh well, at least I was off the mark!

It went quiet for a couple of hours and I was beginning to wonder if coming here today was the right decision. Then BANG, the crab rod pulled down hard and line peeled off my reel. This was a decent fish and every time I gained a few yards it took them back. I was pretty certain it was a hound but literally five yards out after a lot of cranking it made a really strong run for freedom and the hook dislodged without the fish ever breaking the surface - GUTTED !

After a few expletives I rebaited quickly and sent it back into the yonder. It had been in the rest for about three minutes and was off again. Another decent fish on, this one going left and right but after a few minutes a good hound was landed. Weighed in at 11lbs exactly and then safely returned. The tide turned and we had a little weed, although we had nothing all flood, but it was no where near like previous weeks. The crab rod pulled down again and I was into another good fish. This one wasn't really up for too much of a scrap though, one lunge as the water shallowed and it was beaten, coming onto the shingle at 9lbs 13ozs.



Then it was Paul's turn and he landed three hounds in around 45 minutes with a fourth one dropped while one was still on the shingle. They weighed 8lbs, 5 lbs 8ozs, and 8lbs again. No bites for me at all while this was happening and on a bait check I discovered why, I had a small schoolie on both rods! Ten minutes passed with fresh baits out and the crab rod was off again. Not too much of a fuss with this one, it was around 5lbs, a quick photo and back it went.

9pm and we were losing both the sun and water. The rag rod pulled down gently then sprang back up with a slack line. I took up the slack and there was a fish on but this wasn't going like the clappers as hounds do. 'Thornback' I thought! I had a carrier bag caught on my leader so Paul removed it and hand lines the last few feet of line to the shore. I can't see what it is but then he shouts 'It's a stinger' as a perfectly formed small stingray of around 4lbs slithered onto dry land. It was small but I was made up! It was my first one a

nd I've fished this mark half a dozen times since last summer trying for one. You can imagine how powerful the bigger ones are as even this one was very thick and was just one shimmering slab of muscle. After covering the sting, very carefully, I removed the hook. Paul grabbed a couple of pictures and I very gently lifted the fish and popped it back. Result !



We agreed to give it until 10pm and my crab rod started jolting again. This one was going like a train so it was no surprise that after five minutes of cranking, letting it run and wear itself out, and manoeuvring it around the rocks



now showing, I had my second double of the night at 10lbs 2ozs! Last casts and the water was now so low that the shingle was completely uncovered and the sand / mud was starting to show. We both had a bite within a couple of minutes of each other which resulted in a small thornback each of around 2lbs.

A really good session that lessened the energy sapping effect of the long walk back to the car. Two double hounds for me plus the stinger and to be honest I'm over the moon with that. As always great to be out with Paul.



Tight lines all, Andy



KENT BOAT REPORT by Jason Parrott

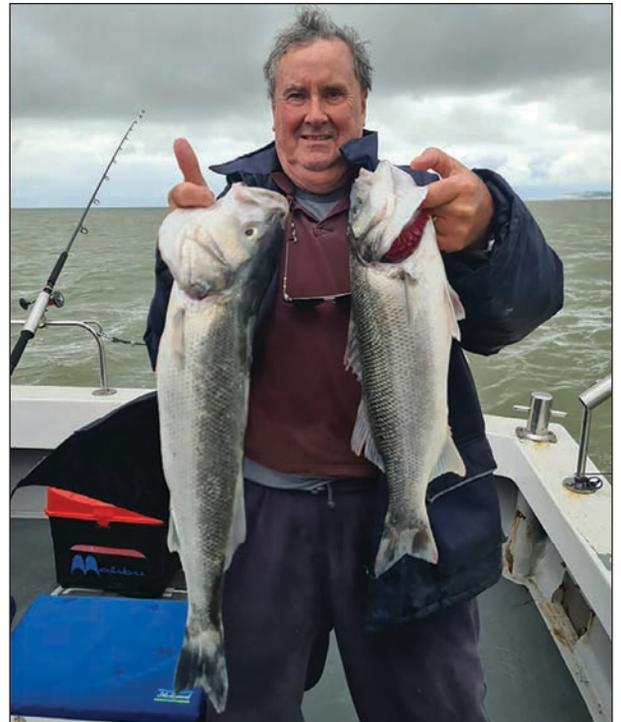
We start to lose the smoothounds this month at Ramsgate, or I should say the big girls go, but we have had a good run again with 19lbs being the biggest. We still can't crack that 20, one day it will come! This season has been very kind to us although the peelers never materialised in any numbers so we had to tinker with other baits at hand. Live prawn has been the killer bait, I like to use 2 so they click against each other and this has been very successful. Tiger prawns have also been another killer bait. I like to use a pennel rig for this with Koike 4/0 wide mouth hooks wide. I give my punters so much stick if they turn up with Aberdeen hooks! They are my worst nightmare! They will fish very good at a lot of places, but so many good fish have been lost here on them. So be warned, you will get ribbed onboard Lady Ann for Aberdeen hooks!

Back to the bait! Squid can be very good for the bigger smutts (smoothounds), but you are plagued with dog fish. Now and again a nice cheeky bass falls for it so be persistent. Hard back crab is good bait, I like the orange or bright green ones. Yes, I have a preference believe it or not especially in clear water. The size matters as well, but I have caught on some monster shore crabs where they just hit it, but can't get in their mouth, but they often come back and finish it off! Rag and lug will get your fair share, but I like to tip with peeler or prawn. I always say I like a running trace, but I only have the running section no longer than 1ft on 70lb main and always use 2 beads to stop the weight running on to knots and



weakening the hook line. I use 50 lb just to hand line the fish in and when the dogs are being ravenous it chafes very quickly.

Bass! We are not seeing the big doubles yet, but fish up to 6lbs have been landed. We often take a look on a wreck this time of year and although you may lose tackle, you have got to be in it to win it. Although I lose some tackle, I generally get my fish as well!



Bottom fishing for bass is a single lug for me on a pennel rig to keep the worm nice and straight and the same with rag. Double squid is another delight for them, I don't know why it works but it does. Half a mackerel is also worth a go and it may also attract a conger eel. We are seeing more congers out on the open ground and although no bigger than 5 lbs it is still nice to see them.

Now on to the mackerel or lack of them! It's really showing what state our fishery is in as the big factory ships have reaped and left nothing. We have seen 4 mackerel all season! Fingers crossed we see some more this end of the Channel. There have been a lot off Dover by boats slack water feathering. Start near the surface then work your way down stopping every 10ft until you find them. Great fun for all fishing levels!

I haven't met anybody who doesn't love an hour on the mackerel!

Let's hope with all the covid still lurking we can all keep safe and carry on fishing. Please remember to supporting our small local tackle shops and local charter boat skippers!

Tight lines, good fishing and hope to see some of you onboard Lady Ann of Ramsgate!

Regards, Jason

If you fancy a day onboard the Lady Ann with Jason call him on 07966 273650.



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

Eureka Fishery Nicholas Road
Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN25 4AG 07597 879621

Frant Lakes Hawkenbury Road
Bells Yew Green, Tunbridge Wells TN3 9AP 01892 616424

Furnace Brook Fishery and 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
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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

Latchetts Lakes Tanyard Lane
Furners Green, Uckfield TN22 3RL 07517 646299 / 07793 654174

Mousehole Lakes Maidstone Road
Nettlestead, Near Paddock Wood ME18 5HR 07725 783405

Orchard Place Farm Fishery Pearsons Green Road
Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6NY 01892 838576

Sandwich Lakes Coarse Fishery Sandwich Ash Road (A257)
Near Canterbury CT3 2DA 07936 409912

Shirkoak Fishery
Bethersden Road, Woodchurch, Ashford TN26 3PZ 07973 410973

The Lakes at Beachborough Beachborough Park
Newington, Near Folkestone CT18 8BW 07469 809877

Tricklebrook Fishery
Colts Hill, Five Oak Green TN12 6SH 07743 955812

Wylands International Angling Centre
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Trout Fisheries

Brick Farm Lakes
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Cinder Hill Fly Fishing Membership available from:
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Spring Hill Trout Waters
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Arun Angling Centre The Old Blacksmiths Yard
Water Lane, Angmering BN16 4EP 01903 770099

Bait Bucket Tackle Warehouse Unit T, Rich Industrial Estate
Avis Way, Newhaven BN9 0DU 01273 933050

Bank Side Tackle Wylands Angling Centre
Powdermill Lane, Battle TN33 0SU 07786 978476

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Dens Tackle
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Pinions
431, London Road, Ditton, Aylesford ME20 6DB 01622 718580

Polegate Angling Centre Unit 7
Birch Industrial Estate, Eastbourne BN23 6PH 01323 486379

Romney Angling
59, High Street, New Romney TN28 8AH 01797 362889

Sheppey Angling Unit 5, Regis Business Park
New Road, Sheerness, Kent 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
Wateringbury 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

Cinder Hill Fly Fishing Membership available from
email: r.nathan@btinternet.com **01892 770903**

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 Jason Tuckey on **07983 569220**
or email: lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk

North Sussex Piscatorials email: northsussexpiscatorials@gmail.com
Parish Lane, Pease Pottage, Sussex RH10 5NY **07824 443720**

Tonbridge & District A & FPS
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