

FRESHWATER

INFORMER

Celebrating
the **300th**
issue

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Please support your local fishing tackle shop and go fishing!

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

This edition of the magazine is numbered 300, so quite a landmark in the Informer's history. The magazine was launched way back in October 1996 by Roger Standen with Andy Ashdown and began life more as a monthly newspaper compared with what you have now. It has come a long way since its conception all that time ago and continues to grow stronger each and every year. Indeed, with the accounts for the past year just finalised, the magazine enjoyed a very good past year breaking all previous records despite the lockdown in the Spring!

The Spring got off to a shaky start, with good weather one week and snow and sleet the next! However, just before Easter conditions began to settle and at the time of writing the holiday weekend looks pretty decent, one advantage of Easter being a little late. Lots of reports and photos have been received for this issue and I have done my best to accommodate as many as possible. My apologies if your photo didn't manage to make it in to this month's magazine.

The online issue of the April magazine was a little late being displayed on the website and many avid readers were in touch asking about it! However, my thanks go to Richard Steel, who runs the Medway & Kent Sea Fishing Group Facebook page, for coming to our assistance and getting things back up and running in double quick time. Well done Richard! The popularity of the online copy has really grown in the last two years and given the monthly stats it now seems to be as popular as the paper one!

The fishing has certainly improved now the weather has become warmer and more settled and some fine fish have been caught. In fact, catch reports increased dramatically in early April when we had a week of days with low air pressure, does this suggest that fish feed better during periods of low pressure? It has long been thought that feeding fish are influenced by air pressure and it would seem that this theory is true. What do you think? This month's fishing may well be affected by spawning depending on the weather and water temperature and I have always associated the school's half term Whitsun break to coincide with the carp beginning their spawn as it always seemed to happen when we took our kids to White Acres in Cornwall for the week!

The approaching Bank Holidays may mean some disruption to the normal delivery days of the magazine, but I will endeavour to keep any delays to a minimum. However, the Spring Bank Holiday (Whit Monday) has been postponed to Thursday 2nd June, the day before the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. At present, I am unsure of the impact these days might have on the opening of tackle shops and fisheries and subsequent magazine deliveries. I will update on the magazine's Facebook page when things are a little clearer.

Enjoy your fishing! Barry Reed

The Freshwater Informer

6 Meadow Way | Wouldham | Rochester ME1 3GR

e: barnic@btinternet.com

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COPY DEADLINE for JUNE 2022

MONDAY 23rd May 2022 at 5pm

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Tricklebrook Fishery Five Oak Green, Kent



20lbs Common - New Lake



20lbs - New Lake



Adam Saunders - 40lbs 2ozs Old Lake



Elvis Reed - 31lbs 12ozs New Lake



Daryll Egleton



Theo - 21lbs New Lake



Callum - 27lbs New Lake



James - 33lbs 10ozs Old Lake



Charlie - 26lbs 6ozs Old Lake



Graham Beadle - 26lbs New lake

Tricklebrook delivers the fish for the Hill family!

Laura Hill sent in some great photos of the family's recent trip to Tricklebrook Fishery. Daughter Ellie smashed her PB with a lovely 28lbs 3ozs fish amongst her many catches. Laura added that the family always enjoy their time at the fishery, but this trip was among one of the best they have experienced.

Here are just a few of the family's catch photos from their session!



Great times at Tricklebrook!

Tricklebrook Fishery boss Andy Halford sent in these great photos of Charlie Young with some fine 20s from the New Lake and his daughter Francesca who also caught some lovely carp! Well done to them both!



24lbs New Lake



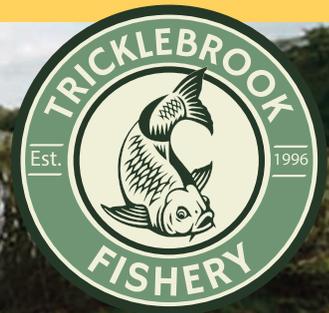
26lbs New Lake



PRICES

- DAY TICKET X2 RODS - £15
- DAY TICKET X3 RODS - £20
- 24 HOUR TICKET X2 RODS - £25
- 24 HOUR TICKET X3 RODS - £30
- 36 HOUR TICKET X2 / X3 RODS - £40 / £50
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LAKE RULES

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A TICKET MUST BE PURCHASED BEFORE FISHING 2. ALL NETS, UNHOOKING MATS AND WEIGH SLINGS MUST BE DRY BEFORE DIPPING IN THE DISINFECTANT BATHS 3. NO NUTS OR PARTICLE 4. BOILIE AND PELLET ONLY FOR SPECIMEN AND BACK LAKE - ALL BAIT WILL BE INSPECTED 5. ALL FISH MUST BE RETURNED TO THE WATER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING CAPTURE. NO STANDING. FISH MUST BE HELD LOW OVER A MAT/CRADLE FOR PHOTOGRAPHS 6. MINIMUM 15LB LINE AND NO BRAIDED MAIN LINE 7. NO SACKING OR RETAINING OF FISH IS PERMITTED. THE REMOVAL OF FISH FROM THIS VENUE WILL BE VIEWED AS A CRIMINAL ACT 8. EACH ANGLER MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF 42 INCH LANDING NET AND A LARGE PADDED UNHOOKING MAT/CRADLE REGARDLESS OF TARGET SPECIES ON SPECIMEN AND BACK LAKE 9. BARBLESS HOOKS ONLY 10. NO LEAD CORE, NO FUSED LEADERS OF ANY KIND INCLUDING SAFEZONE | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. NO FIXED LEAD RIGS. ALL LEADS MUST PASS FREELY OVER LEADER KNOTS. RIG CHECKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT 12. RECREATIONAL DRUGS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED - IMMEDIATE BAN FOLLOWS 13. PLEASE INFORM FISHERY MANAGEMENT OF ANY SNAGGED TACKLE OR FISH 14. ANY FISH OVER 28LB MUST BE REPORTED TO BAILIFF 15. NO DOGS ALLOWED 16. BARBECUES ALLOWED IF OFF THE GROUND 17. NO BAIT BOATS 18. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY OF THE RULES WILL RESULT IN BEING ASKED TO LEAVE AND/OR BANS WHERE APPROPRIATE AND NO REFUND WILL BE OFFERED 19. TRICKLEBROOK IS NOW OPERATING A ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY TO ANY ACTS OF AGGRESSION OR ABUSE TOWARDS ITS BAILIFFS AND STAFF 20. ALL RUBBISH TO BE TAKEN HOME |
|---|---|

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Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hawkhurst, Kent



Harry Blackmore - 15lbs 8ozs Common Quarry Lake



Steve Coyle - 27lbs 9ozs Common Main Lake



Alan Castleman - 30lbs Mirror Dove Lake



Ben Sales - 26lbs Common Dove Lake



Jason Carey - 28lbs Common Dove Lake



Simon Evans - 27lbs Common Specimen Lake



Jake - 28lbs Common Main Lake



Ben Franklin - 24lbs Common Main Lake



Lewis Colgate - 24lbs Common Specimen Lake



Henry Lindsay - 25lbs 8ozs Common Main Lake



Gary Jasper - 46lbs Catfish Main Lake



Christian Wenban - 28lbs Common Dove Lake



Steve Coyle - Main Lake



Lewis Colgate - 30lbs 1ozs Mirror Specimen Lake



Common Carpers - 35lbs Common Specimen Lake

Hawkhurst Fish Farm

Hastings Road, Hawkhurst, Kent, TN18 4RT

T: 01580 753813 E: info@hawkhurstfishfarm.co.uk

NEW CATFISH ONLY LAKE!

We are excited to announce Four Trees Lake has been emptied and re-stocked with 80 Catfish, weighing up to 40lb.

This lake holds 4 anglers maximum; pre-booking required. Full details on our website.

Day session: £20 | Spectator: £10

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Well done Roger!

Paul Cooper, an old friend of Roger Challis, sent me a couple



of photos of Roger with some great fish caught from a local Dartford water. Roger fishes very 'old school' with a centre pin reel, a soft 2lbs test curve rod and simply freelines bread. In fact, Paul tells me that Roger only uses bread as bait, nothing else at all! Here are photos of a 20 and an 18 he had recently, all on his usual set up. Paul told me that Roger would be chuffed if I published them.

Happy to help Paul and well done Roger!

Iden Wood Fishery



Tel/Fax: Andy Ashdown

01797 280180

Mobile:

07906 232225

5 secluded lakes set in 60 acres of woodland, containing Carp to 30lbs, Tench to 5lbs, Bream to 9lb plus Roach, Rudd and Chub

Vehicle access/night fishing allowed / match bookings taken

Spring Lodge | Iden Wood Fishery
| Coldharbour Lane | Iden | Rye |
East Sussex | TN31 7UT

Gabriels Fishery Edenbridge, Kent



Now that Spring is well under way visitor numbers are increasing and we've had some lovely reports coming in from Anglers young and old, this 14lbs 10ozs pike from **Hare Lake** amongst them.

*****NEW***** We are now taking telephone bookings for fishing on all lakes. To book, please ring the bait and tackle shop during opening hours, book a space on the lake, pay over the phone and choose your swim on arrival. You will then be guaranteed to be able to fish the lake you've booked, but you'll have the flexibility to be able to choose from any available swim when you arrive and walk round.

Turn up and pay on the day fishing is still available on all 5 lakes! The bait and tackle shop phone number for booking is 01732 865355 and it is open 7 days a week from 7am - 7pm.

The Camping season has returned at Gabriel's too, why not bring your family to stay and all enjoy a spot of camping and fishing?

We look forward to seeing you very soon!

Horam Manor Fishery

10 secluded lakes in the Sussex countryside

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

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www.horammanorfishery.com

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www.gabriels-fishery.co.uk



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Swallow lake- carp to 20lb

Hare lake- mixed coarse with 12 species

Silver lake- match water

Oak lake- carp to 30lb plus



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

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

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Open: Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm Saturday 8am to 5pm Sunday 8am to 2pm (BST only)

Any questions

Call: 01903 770099

Email: arun.angling@hotmail.co.uk

Find us on

The Old Blacksmiths Yard Water Lane Angmering BN16 4EP



www.arunangling.co.uk

Greenacres Farm Fishery Biddenden, Kent

Speci 1 Fish coming out to anglers using solid PVA bags casting to showing fish or a heavily baited area of pellet using their chosen choice of hook bait over the top.

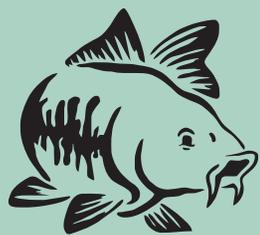
Speci 2 Now the warmer weather has moved in the catfish are slowly waking up with fish showing during the day, but mainly late afternoon into the night. However, the carp are showing to lightly baited areas of pellet fishing a solid bag over the top.

Heron Fishes all year round as a mixed coarse lake and a very good runs water for carp. Small method feeders or float fishing works best in here and do not be shy on the bait as this will bring them on the feed. Favourite hook baits are maggots, worms, luncheon meat, corn, banded pellets, and paste.

Kingfisher This match lake is great fun with a guarantee of catching, brilliant for families or anyone wanting to teach their kids how to fish. Stay away from boilies in here and use natural baits like maggots, corn, pellets, worms etc...



Bluebell A little tench pond tucked out of the way, this pond is showing a good number of tench being caught on float or feeder tactics using worm, maggot, paste or sweetcorn on the hook.



Shirkoak Fishery and B&B



Since taking over in November 2019 we have removed some of the smaller fish and added some big scaly mirrors and pike as our predatory fish, this is part of our ongoing stocking program.

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www.shirkoakfarm.com

For more information please call Hugh on 07973 410973



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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).

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Email : greenacresfarmfishery@gmail.com



Elphicks Fisheries Horsmonden, Kent



Alec Shipley - 41lbs North Lake



Bernie Green - 36lbs North Lake



Mr Ring - Kettles Lake



Billy Harrington - 28lbs 2ozs Sandwich Lake



Chris Dento - Prairie Lake



Grazvydas Kazukonis - Kettles Lake



Joseph Thelwell - 24lbs Kettles Lake



Joseph Thelwell - 21lbs Kettles Lake



James Twycross - 46lbs 11ozs Westend Lake

Lloyd fishes for his late brother!

Lloyd Anderson sent in this report after a great session at Kent's Elphicks Fishery to mark the passing of his brother:

"I recently had a great session at Elphicks on Prairie Lake with a 34lbs 2ozs mirror, 34lbs 10ozs mirror, 26lbs mirror, 28lbs ghostie, 18lbs mirror and 18lbs common. The session marked a sad time for me being the anniversary of the passing of my brother, three of us get together at this time and fish in his memory. This year we decided to do the weekend, a 36 hours session at Elphicks and I am sure my brother was looking down on me. I've been fishing these lakes for many years, the guys there are spot on and always very welcoming." Lloyd Anderson



Elphicks Fisheries



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



Elphicks Fisheries Spelmonden Road
Horsmonden, Kent TN12 8EL

Tel: **01580 212512**

email: info@elphicks-fisheries.co.uk



www.elphicks-fisheries.co.uk



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Sandwich
Coarse Fishery



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We can offer our visitors six coarse fishing lakes containing a variety of fish from silver fish to specimen carp. Matches and fishing lessons can be arranged by contacting our Fishery Manager Kevin Killeen.



The lakes:

VICTORY LAKE a specimen water of two acres with interesting island features and lily pads in the margins. Stocked with commons and mirrors to 35lbs along with ghost carp, tench, roach, rudd and specimen perch. Night fishing by prior booking available.

KINGFISHER LAKE this pond is 0.6 acres in size and is heavily stocked with commons and mirrors to 12lbs and is ideal for bagging up! All eight swims are wheelchair friendly with excellent access direct from the car park. A bridge from Kingfisher allows easy access to Victory Lake.



MATCH LAKES - DAMSON AND VICTORIA one acre in size, each of these lakes are designed for the match angler having shallow margins with reeds for summer fishing and a deep drop off for light feeder work and winter fishing. They are stocked with a great variety of fish including carp to 16lbs and we believe these are the most uniquely designed match lakes in Kent!

MEADOW LAKE one acre in size with eight marked pegs and traditional grass bank fishing, Meadow is stocked with scaley mirrors and commons to 14 lbs. This lake also holds large perch and roach so you will be sure to catch!

BERRY LAKE is one acre in size and stocked with 3000 F1s, commons, mirrors, roach, rudd, perch and some large bream. Float and pellet tactics work well on this lake. IN the summer months, surface sport with mixers produces huge bags of fish.



Day Ticket Prices:

1 rod - £8 2 rods - £10 Family Ticket (2 adults and 2 children) - £25 Under 16s - £6 Sundowner (3pm to 7pm) - £6
Rod hire (includes seat hire & landing net) - £5 Night fishing 24 hours (by prior arrangement) - £20

Holidays at Sandwich Lakes

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BAIT AVAILABILITY DEPENDENT ON TIDE AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

As we write this monthly report it's Easter weekend and we've actually got some lovely weather for a Bank Holiday! Although the last month's weather has been very up and down, with northerly winds, minus temps, hard frosts, some heavy rain and finally a bit of sunshine. The Storm Eunice damage is steadily being cleared, with both Majors and Daughters Lakes being fully fishable. Just Maze Lake to go and the winter tidy up is complete for another year. Unfortunately there isn't enough room for all the captures, so the following are some of the highlights, firsts and PBs that has been reported to us over the past month. Well done and good angling to the following:

Snipe Lake has fished well over the past month with plenty of Carp banked. **Micky Sugrue** was back and broke his **PB** again with a 24lbs 8ozs Mirror. Regular **Chris Edland** finally got off the mark for 2022 with a 20lbs 14ozs Mirror. **Luke Picket** landed a new **PB** of 20lbs 4ozs Mirror on a short day session. **Simon Gore** banked the 'Floppy Tail' Common at 29lbs. **James Girvan** managed 2 x Mirrors at 22lbs 4ozs & 24lbs. **Sam Sutton** banked a 21lbs 4ozs Mirror and a 28lbs 8ozs Common. **Steven Gallagher** started his Snipe season well, landing a 16lbs 4ozs Mirror, 22lbs 12ozs Mirror and a 21lbs Common in 2 x 24hr sessions. **Brian Doran** had a cold and windy 24hrs, but was rewarded with a 24lbs Common and a new **PB** in the shape of 'Hayleys Mirror' at 36lbs 4ozs. **Mick Box** carried on from last month by banking Mirrors at 18lbs 14ozs & 23lbs 12ozs, plus a 26lbs 11ozs Common. **Luke Auger** had a great 48hrs session, landing 4 fish. 2 x 19lbs 14ozs Mirrors, a 26lbs 8ozs Mirror and a 28lbs 12ozs Common. **Dave Russell** enjoyed a rewarding 48hrs session by banking a 23lbs 4ozs Mirror, 'Black Scar' Mirror at 27lbs and topping things off with the elusive Ghostie at a new **PB** and highest weight of 36lbs. **Ian York** has enjoyed an excellent month on Snipe, banking fish on every trip. Breaking his **PB** 5 times in the process landing 9 Carp from 16lbs 1oz up to a new **PB** of 30lbs 9ozs Common.



Gary Barrett - 74lbs 4ozs PB Westlake

Westlake has certainly picked up, with most anglers banking Cats and a couple of monsters included. **Trevor Cornwall** finally had his first Beaver Cat at 33lbs 4ozs. **Chris Jones** banked a 39lbs on an overnighter. **Adrian Buck** managed his biggest Beaver Cat at 49lbs. **Stephen Eastman** got up and running for the year with a 46lbs 4ozs. **Jacob Bacon** banked a 54lbs within 30 mins of starting his day session. **James Lewis** landed a 50lbs 6ozs. **Chris Walker** broke his **PB** with a 57lbs 8ozs. **Merv Davis** managed a 34lbs 15ozs and a new **PB** at 58lbs 2ozs. **Mark Slade** came back for his March Fish of the Month, having a great 3 day session by banking 7 Cats, including 2 x 57lbs. **Dave Bartlett** broke his **PB** with a 64lbs on a day session. **Gary Barrett** landed not only a new **PB**, but also the biggest Cat out so far this year when a 74lbs 4ozs ended up in his net.

Daughters Lake has finally started to wake up and produce fish, with mainly low to mid doubles being banked this month. They are always visible when the sun is shining, which makes things even more frustrating. **Daniel Ward** managed a 10lbs Mirror, **Steve Hunt** banked a 10lbs 8ozs Common, **Aaron Still** had a lovely 11lbs 6ozs Linear, **Steve Rutter** landed a 11lbs 2ozs Common, **Henry Simmonds** netted a 12lbs 2ozs Mirror. **Mark Slade** decided on a change from the Cats and banked a 12lbs 5ozs Mirror on an overnighter. The best looking fish award goes to **Craig Clayton** who managed a stunning 15lbs 4ozs Fully.

Majors Lake has certainly picked up over the last month with plenty of Carp being banked. Multiple catches for day and night anglers being a regular occurrence now after a slow winter. The Pike season ended on the 31st March. **Gareth Osmond**, partner **Emma Martin** and young **Tommy Bassett** had a good last session banking 2 Jacks, 9lbs 6ozs, **PB** 12lbs 6ozs for Tommy and a 17lbs 5ozs. **Terry Edwards** carried on his day sessions banking several Carp to 12lbs 2ozs. Birthday boy **Sabbi** and partner **Nora** managed 6 big Bream and a 8lbs 2ozs Mirror on a day session. **David Thomas** netted 2 decent slabs and a surprise 5lbs Tench on a day session. **Mike Keaney** landed 2 nice Tench and 2 Mirrors at 12lbs & 15lbs. **John Howe** broke 2 **PBs** on consecutive day sessions banking a **PB** Mirror at 12lbs 1oz, **PB** tench at 4lbs 6ozs along with 5 big Bream. **Bryan Everest** landed 2 Commons and a 8lbs 10ozs Mirror on a day session. **Tommy Hunn** managed a 12lbs 8ozs Mirror, plus the only Grass Carp in Majors at 12lbs 4ozs. Brothers **John** and **Andy Colman** had a decent 24hrs between them banking 7 Carp up to 12lbs 2ozs. Mates **Billy Fowler** and **Callum Kingsley** had 7 Carp between them in 48hrs, topped off by a 15lbs 2ozs Ghost Mirror. The best session of the month goes to **Callum Hutchinson** who over a 72hrs session banked an amazing 24 Carp, Commons, Mirrors and Ghosties between 9 and 18lbs.

Jeffer's Lake Plenty of fish banked as usual, with a mix of different species being caught by anglers. F1 Carp to 6lbs, Carp to 8lbs and Bream to 5lbs along with Perch, Roach, Skimmers and the odd Tench. Best day being reported to us was from **Dave Horsley** who managed 23 F1's and 6 decent Bream on feeder and pole tactics.

Maze Lake As we have shut part of Maze and have been working on these completing our winter works it's been quiet for anglers and catches. A couple of the best has been **Bob Morris** who managed 10 F1's on the feeder. **Josh Wood** who landed 9 F1's and a couple of Bream. Best report coming from **Steve Holland**, who banked 13 Carp, 7 Bream and a nice Tench.

Moat Pond This popular pond has been producing multiple catches for day anglers. **Josh Wood** had 3 Carp to 9lb, **Niall Simmonds** managed 4 Carp to 9lbs. **Jason Hills** had a good afternoon with 8 F1s and 3 small Commons. **Keith Attwood** had a great day landing 2 nice Tench and 6 Carp, topped off by a 12lbs Mirror. **Dave King** banked 4 Bream and 9 Carp to 8lbs. While **Clive Mills** had a mixed bag of 2 Bream, 5 Tench, 5 Carp and a bonus Crucian Carp.

Eden Pond Eden is now awake and producing Tench to most anglers. A couple of examples are **Bob Harper** landing 7 Tench all around the 3lbs mark and 2 Bream. **Norman Epps** managing 6 Tench and 3 Bream. **Dave King** banked a 4lbs Tench, 3 F1's and a rare 2lbs Golden Tench.

Please keep sending in your catches on WhatsApp every month to 07710 656041. Tight Lines!



Dave Russell - 36lbs PB Snipe



Ian York - 26lbs 3ozs Snipe



Luke Auger - 19lbs 14ozs Snipe



Simon Gore - 29lbs Snipe



Dave Bartlett
64lbs PB Westlake



Mark Slade
57lbs 8ozs Westlake



Craig Clayton - 15lbs 4ozs Daughters



Henry Simmonds - 12lbs 2ozs Daughters



Billy Fowler - 13lbs Majors



Callum Hutchinson - 13lbs Majors



Callum Kingsley - 11lbs Majors



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 The Willows Angling Centre, Bax Farm, Lower Road, Teynham, Kent ME9 9BU



Langley's Lake

A 3-acre specimen carp lake with hard fighting fish up to 30lbs. We only allow a maximum of 8 anglers at time on to this water which has a variety of features to fish to. Langley's is the largest lake at the venue and there are a number of additional fishery rules in place on this water. The average depth is around 5'. Get your tactics right and you can expect a great session!
£15 / 12 hours - £30 / 24 hours
 No concessions.



The Stream

Approx 1/3 mile long with an average width of 30', this canalised section of water offers anglers the opportunity to fish with a pole or rod for a variety of fish including crucians, roach, rudd, bream, perch and tench. A very popular water for those who enjoy a more traditional style of fishing. The average depth is 4' and there are 60 pegs available.
£10 / 12 hours - £20 / 24 hours
 Concessions available.
 Match bookings available.



The Pan Lake

A more intimate water than Langley's with carp to 20lbs along with a selection of silver fish including roach, tench, barbel and perch. With an average depth of 5' and lots of features, this pretty water offers all anglers a great day out.

£10 / 12 hours - £20 / 24 hours
 No concessions.



Farm Lake

An average depth of 4' with lots of features, this lovely water is well stocked with carp, bream, roach, perch and F1s. This water is a popular choice for families, young anglers and beginners and is close to the well presented on-site facilities.

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Claygate Lakes Claygate, Marden, Kent

Well the sun has come out and so have the anglers along with the fish!

Sophie Lake

Fishing really well with bags of 50lb+ silvers coming out. The tench and bream showing down the middle and carp to the far side bank. Pellet, worm and meat working well. **Leah, Alex** and family popped in for a couple of hours and left with smiles all round after catching a nice mixed bag of fish.



Eva Lake Meat/corn/Pellet working during the day and dog biscuits in the afternoon for the carp. **Matt Good** has even got his daughter on the rods!



Amy Lake

Well done Martin on catching a lovely looking common. Regular JD woke up to a nice surprise! Matt's done it again landing a cracking common. Please remember you need to book on this Lake as we limit anglers which guarantees you a swim!



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



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Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society

New Lagoon Fishing has picked up now with some very good catches being reported. Bream and Tench coming out regularly with the odd Carp to around 8lbs too. Mixed silvers to nearly 1lb also being caught and Perch to nearly 2lbs.



The Old Ballast Pit Fishing is improving all the time with mixed bags of Bream and Tench being caught on feeder tactics. Bream to 10lbs and Tench to 8lbs reported. Plenty of Carp to 32lbs 7ozs also being reported. Some of the pretty stocked fish are being caught and good signs of weight gain.

Longfield Lake Mainly Tench and Bream being reported with both species to around 7lbs.

Haysden Lake The platform swims have been fishing really well with some good mixed bags reported. **Mick Smith** and **Paul Reddy** had an enjoyable session, both having decent nets of Roach, Skimmers and Tench.



Pippins Farm Tench and Perch mainly being caught at the moment but some big Roach are present and will start showing soon as well as the new Crucians which were recently stocked.

Work Party The recent work party consisted of some marginal planting of Flag Iris around the Old Ballast Pit and the New Lagoon.



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



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New syndicate-based water at Bexley

Mature 2 acre spring-fed water with a host of features to fish to; including bars, plateaux, islands, reed lined margins and lily pads.

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Gripz Fishing Hooks

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



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



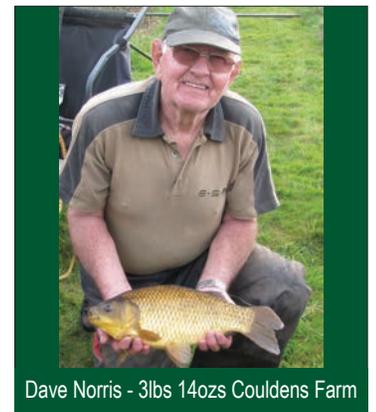
Mark Day - Club Water



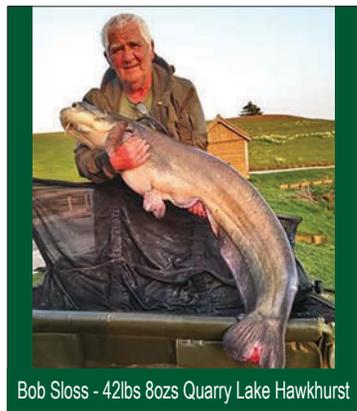
Jeff Lightfoot - 24lbs 8ozs Elphicks



Rylan Brazier - 50lbs 12ozs Cackle Hill



Dave Norris - 3lbs 14ozs Couldens Farm



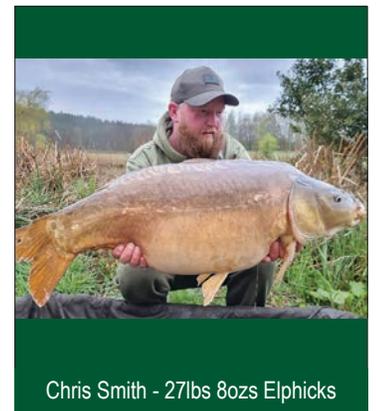
Bob Sloss - 42lbs 8ozs Quarry Lake Hawkhurst



Jack Wood - 24lbs Sandhurst Lake



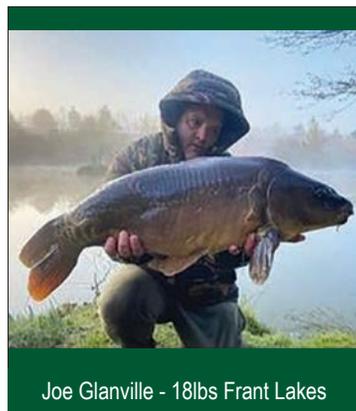
Mel Dearing - Couldens Farm



Chris Smith - 27lbs 8ozs Elphicks



Mark Hallinan - 20lbs 8ozs Willows Angling Centre



Joe Glanville - 18lbs Frant Lakes



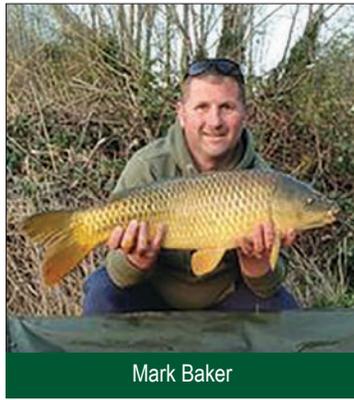
Ellie Neal - 28lbs 3ozs Tricklebrook Fishery



Jason Homewood - 7lbs 8ozs Orchard Place Farm



Ollie Davis - 31lbs Elphicks



Mark Baker



Alex Chalke - 20lbs 2ozs Pittlands



Andy Tree - 20lbs 10ozs Greenacres



Bob Edmunds - 8lbs Lake Sophie, Claygate Lakes



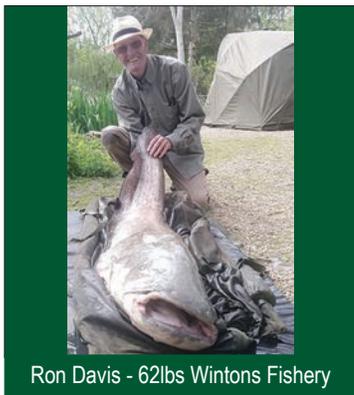
Dale Green - 23lbs Greenacres Fishery



Roger Jarrold - Club Water



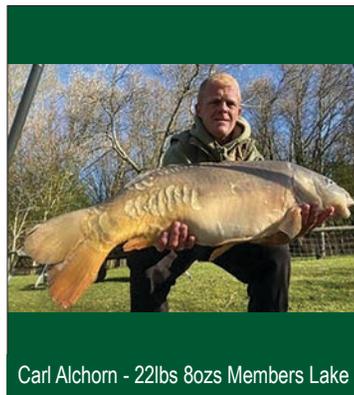
Jake Trapp - 17lbs 1oz



Ron Davis - 62lbs Wintons Fishery



Alan Castleman - 30lbs Hawkurst Fish Farm



Carl Alcorn - 22lbs 8ozs Members Lake



Call The A-Team!

Colin Pullen sent in this report after a successful series of sessions at Loggies:



Colin Pullen
43lbs 'Scar' from Loggies

"Hi Barry, I just thought I'd let you know I had a PB last week! It was one of Loggies A TEAM fish called 'Scar' and weighed in at 43lbs. So far this year I've had 2 x 30s and this 43lbs fish. My other two thirties were a 35lbs called 'Scaley' an A TEAM fish from a Park Lake and a fish called '2 Chains' also from a Park lake weighing in at 30lbs." Regards, Colin



'Scaley' 35lbs



'Two Chains' 30lbs

Worthwhile drive for Andy Stone!

Dave Wayman sent me this report on behalf of his good friend Andy Stone who made a two hour drive from Harlow to fish at Knightingales Fishery at Stone:



"Andy had a great day at Knightingales Fishery after a lengthy drive from Essex. He started off on 2 maggot feeders catching small roach before he had one at 1lb dead. Andy then had an almost double take with first a 3lbs 6ozs perch and then the other rod went with a new PB chub of 6lbs 8ozs both on prawn hook baits. Another perch of 2lbs 4ozs followed and then a massive chub at 6lbs 6ozs! I could only manage a few roach all day!" Dave Wayman





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



Contact Wantsum Angling Association on **01227 678063**
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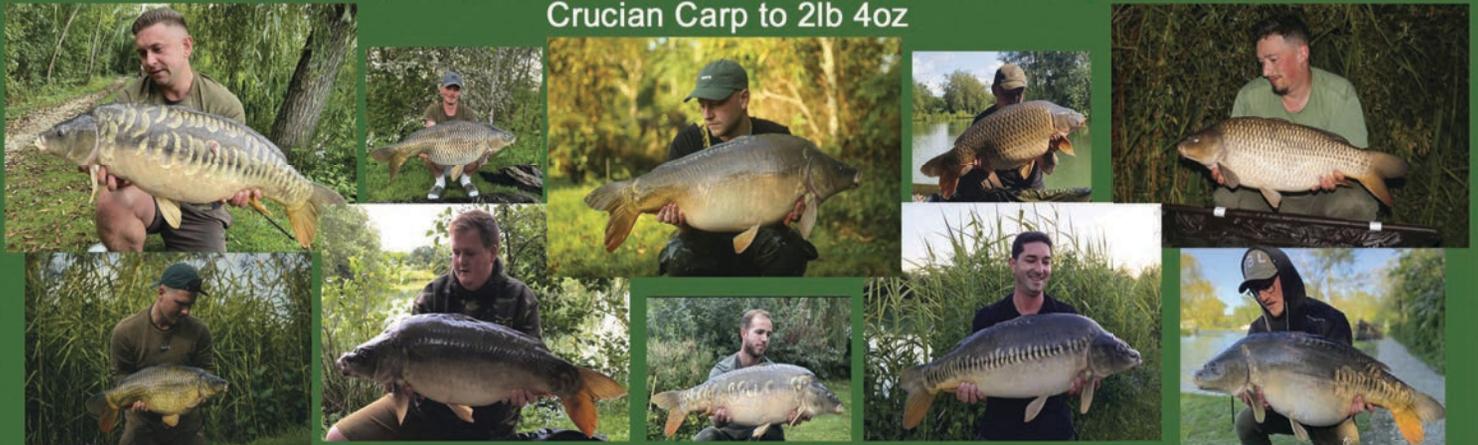
Hartley Lands Fishery

Swattenden Lane, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 3PS

We are a day ticket fishery that offers specimen carp fishing, pleasure / coarse fishing and match fishing across our 6 lakes and 1 pond. Our lakes are maintained and managed to the highest of standards creating the best possible fishing environment and experience.

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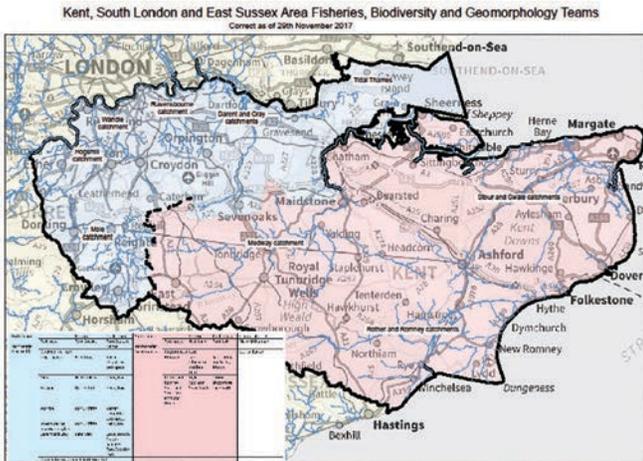
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SPRING UPDATE

A big hello from the KSL Fisheries Team with the first of our quarterly updates here in the Freshwater Informer!

Who are we and what have we been up to?



We are a small team of eight fisheries officers and two technical specialists covering the whole of Kent, South London and East Sussex!

Our work is varied and includes fisheries enforcement on matters such as illegal fishing, fish movements and rod licence checks. As well as that we also deal with incident responses, fishery management work, planning consent applications, fish surveys and stocking. We are solely funded by rod licence funds and all the services we offer are free for all angling clubs and organisations. Please visit our Facebook page (Environment Agency – Kent & South London Fisheries Team) to see regular updates of what we have been up to and how we can help.

Stocking

We are very fortunate to have our own fish farm based in Nottingham which produces around 600,000 coarse fish per year for the UK's rivers and lakes. We ventured up to Calverton in December to collect our pre-ordered stock of over 10,000 fish which included Crucian carp, Tench, Roach, Bream, Barbel, Dace and Chub. These were stocked across some of the Kent and South London rivers and stillwaters. We don't stock without reason, there has to be a driver for doing this which can be, for example, when a pollution incident has decimated the fish population or if there have been works done by a club or organisation which improves the habitat where the seed stock is too low. When stocking angling club still waters this is done as part of a management plan created in advance by the club with help from us.



Fisheries Management Work

Over the winter period we were busy helping various fisheries carry out stock assessment surveys. These surveys provide the angling club/organisation with valuable information on fish numbers and species. The collected data is used to help create a management plan with the angling club/organisation. These plans are created to future protect the fishery, anglers and fish stocks and include habitat improvements, predation control measures, and water quality improvements. Recently we have also been carrying out Bio-Base surveys which, gives angling clubs crucial information on the lake bed substrate as well as valuable data on the aquatic vegetation.

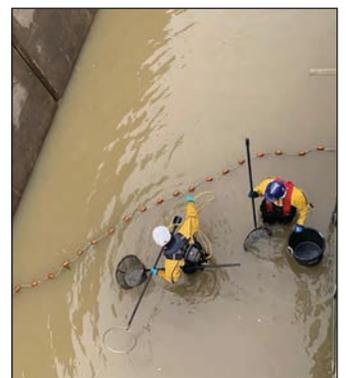


Incident Response

This is a service we carry out all year round, if you are ever in the situation where your fish stocks need help, please call us on 0800 807 060, we have a fishery officer on duty 24/7 so we can act as fast as possible to help your fishery.



Our incident response can vary from deploying aeration if your water is suffering from an oxygen crash to disease investigation where we can utilise our national fisheries lab to diagnose any parasite/viral or bacterial infections. We also offer the professional advice from our team as well as fish rescue operations often after a flood or drought event. We have been out to several oxygen related issues already this year in the colder months where the fish stocks were struggling due to the excessive leaf litter breaking down causing a high oxygen demand compounded by the lack of natural oxygen being provided by the weather. Prevention is key, so please talk to us and we can offer great advice on how to protect your fishery and fish stocks.



Enforcement

As always we have been out and about carrying out regular rod licence check patrols on the Kent and South London rivers as well as plenty of lakes across the area. Last year during the Pandemic we checked over 3000 licences and visited over 100 different sites with many of these having multiple visits. This year these figures look to substantially increase, with the addition of three new fully trained Angling Trust volunteer bailiffs as well as an additional four warranted EA officers who will soon be joining us on patrols. We have also been monitoring any use of illegal equipment and have seized many items already this year including gill nets, set lines, unlicensed crayfish traps as well as some of the people using them with fines and prosecutions going through our legal department. It's great to see so many anglers returning to the water's edge now the nice weather is returning, however, please remember to purchase a rod licence! We are carrying out more and more patrols this year and the fines are far higher than the cost of your licence. Importantly, the funds from rod licence sales go a long way to help protect our great sport for the future.



We always rely upon the help from the public in reporting any illegal fishing activities and if we can't attend it is still hugely important information, which can help us so please call us on 0800 807 060.

Fish pass checks

We have recently been out assessing our fish pass checks on our Kent and South London rivers and tributaries. We are always looking for opportunities to create new fish passes so as to allow fish to move freely up and down stream particularly to spawn. Where possible we do not want isolated areas where fish cannot move to breed as this can restrict the blood lines and strength of the fish. Recently, we have been focusing on checking our Eel passes as the Eel migration period has now started so we need to ensure they can move as easily as possible particularly over any large structures or obstacles in place.



National Fish Surveys

We are about to start our National fish monitoring surveys on many of our rivers and tributaries including the Darent, Medway, Cray, Rother, Mole, Brede and Beult. Additionally, the two yearly surveys on the tidal Medway and Thames are taking place so you may well spot us on these rivers as well. We carry out these surveys to gather data on fish numbers and species currently residing in our river systems. This information is vital as fish are a great indicator to the overall state and health of our water bodies. The data also shows us if we need to step in and help certain stretches of river with habitat improvements including improved spawning grounds, flow improvements, fish passes as well as additional stocking where required.



Until next time, tight lines and we may see you on the bank some time!

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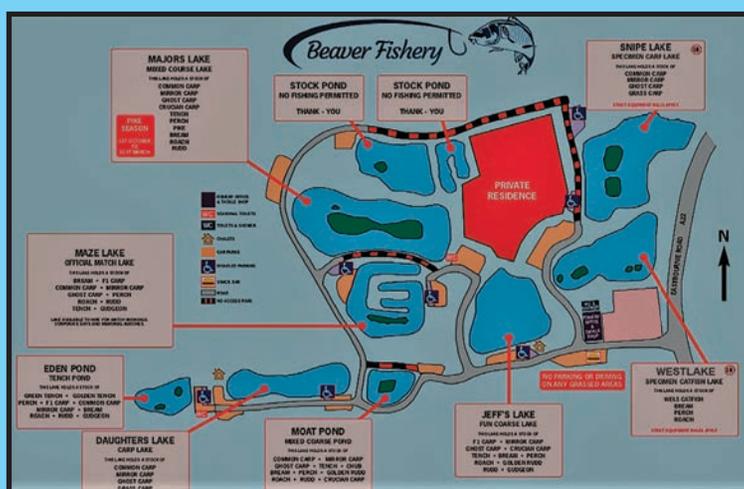
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The power of the pole!

Iwould be the first to confess I am no expert when it comes to using a pole, but watching how the experienced angler, especially those at the top of the match scene, use them to such good effect really is incredible. My first experiences with this tactical approach



was starting off with a 12 foot 'whip' on the Trent in years gone by dapping with floating casters to nick tiny Roach out of the upper layers and, though I have in my angling arsenal a decent pole, I don't use it enough!

Over the last few years I have got to know Mick, who owns Youldon Waters here in North Devon, a pretty and lovingly maintained two lake complex, with both lakes being around the one acre mark. One lake focuses on carp whilst the other is a mixed fishery having several different species within, from Tench through to Crucians, and seeing Mick of late posting some cracking mixed bags using pole tactics it was time to drag out my dusty pole and visit the venue.

Up with the sparrows and with a beautiful Spring morning forecast I was really looking forward to the few hours I had to meet up with Mick and take on board what he had to say. Every day can be a 'school day' and I am always keen to learn, especially off anglers who really do know their stuff, and Mick certainly does!

On the swim front I went into one of the swims that Mick advised and started to set up for two different tactics, one being the pole and the second being a very light feeder rod on which I would be fishing the running Stonze System. Mick is another fishery owner who has embraced the Gripz design hooks so on both set ups I tied on size 14 Wide Gapes. I had brought a few different bait options but was keen to start off with the naturals approach of double red maggot, this bait has caught me so many fish and in this situation would again prove to be the winner.

Though the feeder rod was there for a 'change' tactic, my main focus was going to be on my pole and having plumbed the swim to get the exact depth it wasn't long before my first bite came along and I lifted into a pretty little silver skimmer in immaculate condition. As I popped the fish back into its watery home I was reminded why I go fishing as the dawn chorus was in full voice and the sun was slowly rising up above the horizon. The oily surface was now alive with signs of fish and here I was sat within a lovely environment and, like all anglers, I was in my 'happy place', something non anglers probably wouldn't understand until sampled – I assure you it is an incredible experience and has certainly shaped my life for the better!



One of the most exciting things about fishing is the anticipation of the bite and seeing the float disappear, and as I was feeding in some Carp Crush ground bait my float suddenly shot under and I lifted into a bigger fish and after a feisty and adrenaline-filled fight, I slipped my net under the olive flanks of my first Tench of 2022. Tench have always been a very special fish to me with their stunning appearance including those blazing red eyes and to say I was buzzing would be an understatement!





Over the next few hours the action was consistent and I ended up catching every species that inhabited this lovely spot: Tench, Crucians, Bream, Roach, Rudd and Perch. Though I caught on the Stonze System the delicate and accurate approach via my pole was without doubt more efficient. Watching a float in such ideal conditions certainly took me back in time and my formative angling years where float fishing was the going trend and watching that tiny float tip like a hawk was the norm.

I can never look back, only forward, but I do regret, especially with a three rod licence, that I have not used that third rod option in this fashion. The truth is that I could have had two rods out on the bottom targeting bigger fish but why an earth didn't I fish that third rod to catch the more abundant smaller species in such an exciting style?

Lesson learnt and as I was packing up Mick slipped into the swim beside me and within minutes of shipping out his pole he was into and subsequently landed a gorgeous and absolutely mint one and a half pound Roach. What a fish and what a way to ensure I travel back to this fishery in the coming weeks, especially as Mick has promised me a master class in pole fishing – even an old dog can learn new tricks!!

Last but not least, the highlight of those few hours, aside from the fishing, was seeing the graceful grass snake slowly but elegantly swimming across the lake. What you see when you are bankside can be inspiring and I certainly would never have seen such beauty sitting at home!

Simon 'Pom' Pomeroy

Sues Tackle Cabin



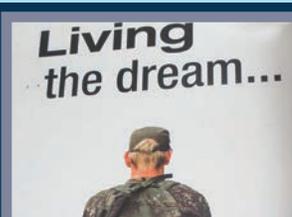
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The Golden Years of Coarse Fishing

by Bob Rolph

Redmire Pool – PART ONE

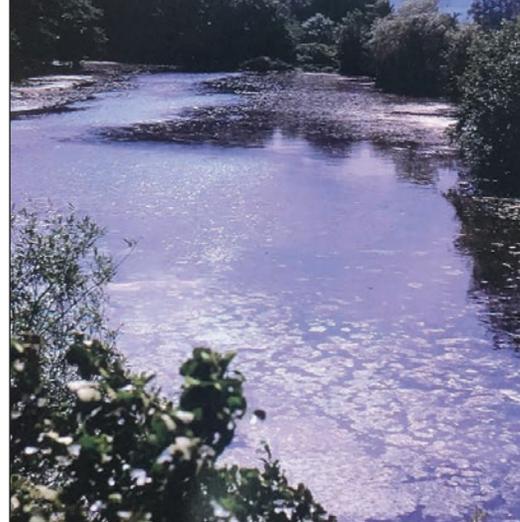
A potted history of Redmire 1934 to 1965

This month, Bob starts a four-part personal review of one of the world's most celebrated carp lakes, one which he first fished in 1966 as a nineteen year old boy! Redmire Pool is probably the most revered carp lake in angling history and over the next four months Bob will talk us through the Golden Years at Redmire.

A million words have been written about Redmire Pool in four major books and at least 45 book chapters over the past 40 years by proper specialist carp anglers far more experienced and successful than I ever was. I am now a 'veteran observer' who was once there at the re-start of it all in 1965, but never had the time or dedication to pursue this branch of our sport, preferring to fish for the brown and rainbow spotty things that were stocked into our reservoirs in the 1970s. Bewl Water and 16 other reservoirs took up all my spare time, and I became hooked on distance fly casting and tying my own favourite trout flies.

How come an aspiring young angler from Bromley, with little experience and even fewer big fish to his name, became involved with a 'dying' former famous carp lake 200 miles from his home in Kent, I hear you ask and why was this pool so important to the carp anglers of Kent? I recall my take on the story here, that older carp anglers may well have heard before, but which our new breed of youngsters, mad keen on carp, may find of interest. That great historian of carp fishing, Chris Ball from Hampshire, recently installed as President of the Carp Society, gives his blessing to this series, albeit written by a 'trout angler' who never made the grade in carp!

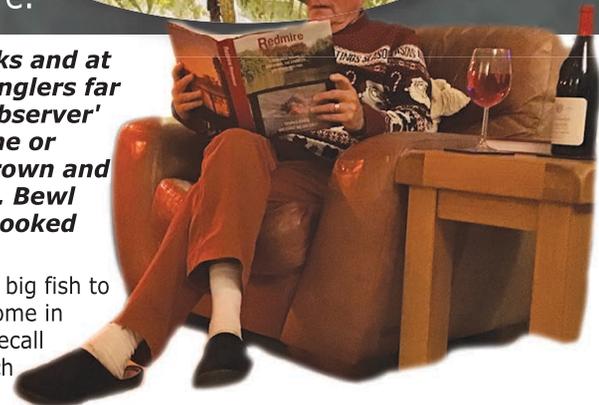
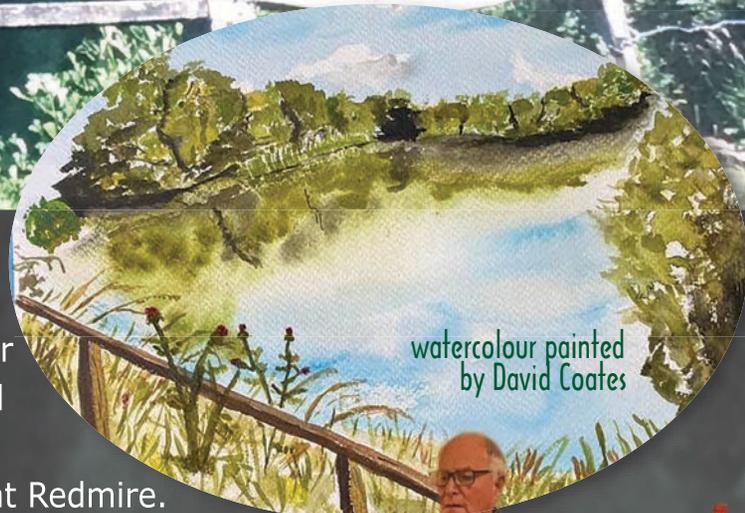
Bernithan Court Farm near Llangarron, 4 miles from the Welsh border and SW of Ross-on-Wye has a stream fed lake of just under 3 acres going through its land. Formed in a shallow valley by damming the tiny River Garron in the 17th century, this rich, red water has a very high PH value of 8.5, and is very fertile promoting extensive weed and fish growth. Formerly stocked with trout in 1934, fifty fingerling 2 year old carp were introduced from Holland by the famous fish farmer Mr Donald Leney from the Haslemere Trout Farm in Surrey, and here these 'Galician' King Carp grew in relative obscurity for the next 16 years, putting on weight fast in the nutrient rich, very weedy water.



Tree top view from 1965

Nothing much was heard of these fish until 1950 when a six pounder was caught unexpectedly by a visiting guest of the very private and exclusive estate. A Norfolk veterinary surgeon, Dick Kefford, was instrumental in obtaining permission for Britain's most famous angler of the time, Richard Walker and his friends to fish here for carp from 1951, when Bob Richards caught a beauty of 31lbs, a new British record. The stocking was of Common, Mirror and Leather carp, and all fish thrived, putting on weight fast in the 10 foot deep lake.

Named 'Redmire' by BB, because of the Devon like red soil on this potato farm, Denys Watkins Pitchford was a very famous writer of the time, penning works like 'Confessions of a Carp Fisher' and 'A Carp Water', and he fished at Redmire with luminaries of the day like Maurice Ingham,



The start of it all - September 13th, 1952 - 44lbs

Peter Thomas, Bob Richards, and of course Dick Walker. On the 13th of September 1952, Dick caught the famous record carp, a common of 44lbs from the Willow pitch by the far corner of the Dam. This fish went to London Zoo so was never caught again, and lived on for a further 19 years in a huge tank in the Aquarium. I went to see it on several occasions in the 1960s from my school in Central London I recall. All these pioneering 'carp men' from the 1950s formed the Carpcatchers Club, twelve like minded fellows who paved the way for what we have today. They could have been called the very first



Photo compiled by Historian Chris Ball

with Dick Walker for a few days, even though they rarely saw eye to eye in print! They camped in a huge white bell tent in the Willow Pitch and Bernard's car was nearly licked down to the primer by cows when they parked, as we did in those days, on the field on the far side of the Dam! In 1959 Eddie Price caught the first 40lbs mirror carp ever caught in England, this same fish was to eventually become Chris Yates' record fish of 51lbs in June 1980. On Sept 13th 1952 Dick's famous common carp 'Clarissa', a 34lbs fish and a few 20lbs fish fell to John Nixon, Peter Thomas, May Berth Jones, Maurice Ingham and Bob Richards and were some of the only significant captures of the late 1950s and early 1960s. I have rather 'rushed' this period to get to the 'nitty gritty' of the halcyon years of the 1960s!

On Boxing Day 1962 it snowed and it snowed and it snowed and froze for the next three months. The great freeze had started and all fishing ceased right up until the close season in mid March. No one could go fishing for six months, unless you were mad! Three great little fishing books came out about that time by Fred J. Taylor and Frank Guttfeld and we spent our winter reading of better times and dreaming of warmer weather in the summer. 'Favourite Swims', 'Angling in Earnest' and 'In Search of Big Fish' were ground breaking titles of the time and kept us young anglers engaged until we could get out again.



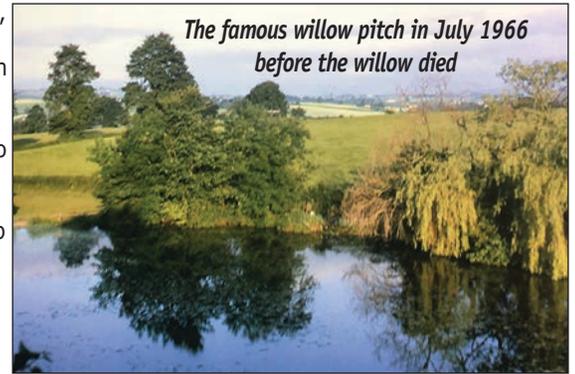
Walker's MK 1V rod and net from 1952 with which he caught the record carp

myself, but we hob-nobbed with the best of them in those halcyon days, and distance was no object if big fish were concerned!

One day early in the close season of that year (1965), several of us lads from Kent went up to be shown around the famous lakes and rivers that the great names of the time were fishing at for Chub, Tench, Bream and Barbel. Big carp were rarely on the agenda, but talk soon came round to Redmirer Pool, when everyone had heard that all the carp had died in the big freeze two years earlier. Charles Kirkham had different news however, direct from Richard Walker. "Some of the carp have survived!", we were reliably informed, "Dick has told me!" Quite how Walker knew all this we didn't understand, as he hadn't visited the lake for years, not since the late 1950s after capturing another huge carp of 34lbs in June 1954, again a fully scaled common.

So Grahame Igglesden, my fishing mate at the time, suggested that we go and seek out this mysterious pool for ourselves and see if there was any truth in all these stories. Grahame couldn't drive and didn't have a car, so would I mind undertaking the 375 mile round trip myself in my newly acquired green A35 van, where the passenger seat was an add on extra! I had only just passed my driving test and this exciting expedition was to be the longest drive I had ever undertaken!

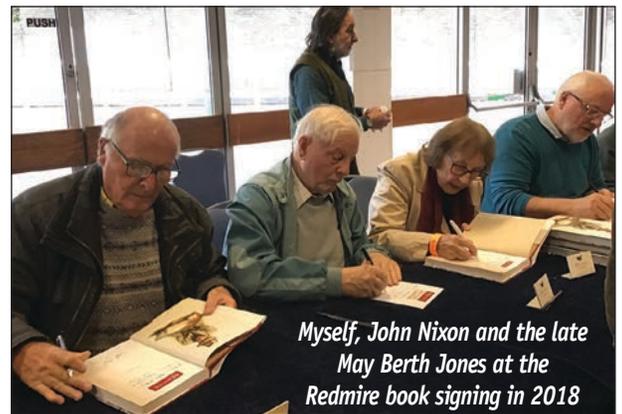
Footnote: May Lang (nee Berth Jones), Gerry's wife at the time, was the last surviving link to this exclusive club, but sadly, I have heard that she too passed away in December 2020, well in to her 90s. She told me of her fishing life at the Sandown book signing the year before, a remarkable lady angler.



The famous willow pitch in July 1966 before the willow died

'Specimen Hunters' and certainly influenced me when I set up my group in 1964. My mate of old, the late Bob Reynolds, was the last and 13th member of this exclusive group which included Gerry Berth Jones from Petts Wood near Bromley in Kent, a regular correspondent of Dick Walkers. Bob Reynolds's epic catches of carp at Billing in Northampton in 1957 and 1963 qualified him for membership, although Dick Walker was evidently less than pleased with such a young upstart joining! I was very fortunate to have met five of these legendary characters in my youth and even fished with Bob for carp, tench and eels! May Berth Jones, Gerry's wife at the time, was the only surviving link to this exclusive club, and at 91 was still fishing occasionally when I sat next to her at the Redmirer Book signing at Sandown park three years ago, a remarkable lady (see footnote).

Bernard Venables was also a founding member of the CCC, and just once fished at Redmirer



Myself, John Nixon and the late May Berth Jones at the Redmirer book signing in 2018

Nothing much was heard about Redmirer Pool for two long years, everyone assumed that all the carp had died under feet of ice, as they had at many other lakes and canals all over the country during this bleak period. Ice was 18 inches thick on some lakes in the south, and the snow was 2-8 feet deep. A tractor was driven over the ice on Redmirer Pool, but I was still so keen, or stupid, that I got the bus down to the River Medway at Tonbridge and fished through a hole in the ice near the Weirpool and using lobworms caught several good roach. Quite how I got hold of worms is still a mystery to me as my parents vegetable patch was frozen solid and no self respecting worm would have poked his nose up on the frozen grass in torchlight! But catch roach I did, it's all in my diary from nearly 60 years ago and I remember it well!

The spring of 1965 was warm and sunny and I had started trout fishing at Darwell and Weir Wood, but it was thoughts of carp, tench and specimen fish that got our Kent Specimen Group under way. Twenty of us met up to form this group, one of the first in the country, and we exchanged ideas and letters with other fledgling groups all over the place. One such group was in Buckinghamshire and Charlie Kirkham was the secretary. He knew and had fished with Dick and Fred and Peter Stone, and was often to be seen on the Great Ouse fishing at 'Dicks Hut'. Charlie was just 17, but caught several good chub from the river and Walker was impressed. I was just a kid of 19



1966 - We arrive in style! Keith Dickens' Black Jaguar, my A35 van and Grahame tackling up

Bob Rolph

Next month...
Part 2 - We 'rediscover' it's potential in 1965

Medway Man

Bob Morris

After a couple of false starts, Spring is now very much with us and the countryside is bouncing back to life and somehow, after all of the problems and hardships that we have faced over the last couple of years it feels like it is now a good chance to reset the controls. Nothing stays the same - even if many of us would prefer it, but we have now just got to get back to some form of normality and probably accept that certain things have changed for good. Some are calling it the 'new normal'.

The weather at this time of the year (April) never ceases to amaze me with temperatures often rising from - 5c at 8am to 20c or more during the mid afternoon. This, of course, will affect the fishing and wildlife quite drastically, although trying to predict the outcome of this is almost impossible. Overnight frosts may not alter the water temperature significantly if the longer days of warm sunshine are balancing it out. Shallower waters will be affected most and wind direction will also come into the equation - the stage that the fish are at in their spawning cycle is very much involved in the mix as well. What all of this means, when it comes to deciding on a swim to fish, time to fish venue etc, is at the very heart of angling success at this time of the year. Having spent much of my whole life fishing in one way or another, I can honestly say that I have no definite answers to these questions. I have established, however, that these factors are certainly the ones that you need to consider when fishing during the Springtime.

If I had to describe my own initial efforts so far, I could sum them up with one word - slow! However, Slow is not the same as Poor and certainly does not mean unenjoyable. Although results on a couple of difficult venues have been predictably hard, the disappointing lack of action on a couple of other waters, which I was expecting to be a bit more predictable is more of a puzzle, but one that I am working on. Tench have been the main target, as usual, and I have now managed to get one or two, but in spite of my best endeavours with the float in a number of margin situations bites have been very hard to come by with most of them not being from tench.



Spring stuff



Recent and decent on the feeder

Having said that, there are now signs of improvement which may or may not be as a result of the water warming and the night time temperatures not falling as low and I am hoping to have more to report on my float fishing activities shortly. The feeder tactics have been more consistent recently with the fish showing signs of interest on the patch, usually within an hour or so and then just one or two good takes before close of play. My best two came to these methods and I must say that



Good sized carp on the feeder

my normal feeder approach of baiting an area with a number of what I refer to as 'stodge balls' and then using a couple of rods fished on top, is starting to produce more action. One strange thing that I have noticed is the total lack of bream in the area that I would have expected to get them from at this time of year, and this may be because they are already gathering to spawn somewhere else. On waters that produce bigger bream, the numbers are often smaller and groups of fish rather than large shoals is often the situation, but there may be just one area on a lake that is favoured for spawning. Sometimes if you get the timing and location right you can get a real bumper catch - hopefully I will get one!



Bigger Bream are often in small groups



Interesting - Frog tadpoles eating a dead vole



Peacock and Gatekeeper

They say that one Swallow does not make a

Summer and, as yet, that is all I have seen. I hope that my observations of the declining numbers over the last decade or so will not be confirmed this year, but I have to say that I am not feeling optimistic on this score.

At the time of writing (mid April) I have yet to hear a Cuckoo which is one of the most distinctive sounds of Spring/early Summer. Unfortunately, the evidence shows that these visitors are also in sharp decline along with many other species. I have, however, been really enjoying the return/emergence of other Spring creatures and migrants and this always keeps me happy and interested while I am struggling on the fishing front. Some days a couple of good sightings of, maybe Grass Snakes or a Barn Owl can be the real highlight of the session - even if I do manage to actually catch something.

The Bluebells and Primroses are out in force now - Fantastic!

Best Fishes & Viewing, Bob Morris

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Hastings Bexhill & District Freshwater Angling Association

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

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

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

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Contact Martyn on **07802 248861**

Great time at Orchard Place Farm!

Kerry Covill and her family spent some time at Orchard Place Farm Fishery recently and had plenty of fish between them. Kerry sent this report and a few photos for us to enjoy: "We spent a weekend fishing at Orchard Place Farm near Paddock Wood. It was our first session of the year with all the family! We ended up with 21 fish in total, all on zigs including the catfish even the 61lbs catfish which was caught by my brother Lee Darby on a 5ft zig...!!!"

Regards Kerry



What a battle for Matthew!

Matthew Baker sent in this report after an epic encounter with a large carp on his feeder rod. Thankfully, Matthew tamed the beast and as you can see it is a wonderful looking specimen!



"I managed to get out fishing and was put through my paces when this carp picked up my bait on 4lbs bs line with a 3lbs bs hook length. The fish took off like a train and it took 30 minutes to land on a light feeder rod. The common weighed 23lbs 12ozs and was caught from my local club water."

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01273 592903

Hello and welcome to the May edition of Junior Informer!

It seems to be one long round of holidays at the moment, however, I don't think I will hear much complaining from our young anglers! The Easter break was a decent one with some nice weather and great catches, we then have the May Day holiday happening during the distribution of this issue and this is followed by the Spring Bank Holiday and Queens Jubilee together in early June! There has been and will be plenty of time to get those fishing rods out! The Closed Season is still in force on the rivers for coarse fishing and this lasts until mid-June. However, the lakes are still open for fishing, but this time of year often sees the carp begin to spawn. The actual time of spawning depends on the weather, water temperature and other factors being just right and once these conditions are in place the carp begin their spawning. The carp very often spawn more than once during the Summer, so don't be surprised if you turn up at the lakes several weeks later and the fish are thrashing round in the margins again. My advice to you if this happens would be to find somewhere else to fish and leave them in peace. When the carp are spawning they don't feed so little point in trying to lure them. Many fisheries actually close while the carp are spawning in order to allow them time to spawn and recover as many fish can get damaged during this period. There is always another day!

Don't forget to send me your catch photos for the Junior Informer Photo Album, but please remember that I need a parent or guardian's permission to publish them. Pallatrax will pick a winner each month and send them a Ready, Steady Fish pack but you have to be in it to win it!

Enjoy your fishing, Barry Reed

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- 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!



WINNER

of the PALLATRAX
'Ready, Steady, Fish'
pack for APRIL is...
Albie



Thomas Crocker - 14lbs 6ozs Elphicks



Callum Easton - 16lbs 14ozs Normanshurst



Elliot Chalke - 23lbs 8ozs Pittlands



Finlay Parker at Beaver Farm



AJ Johnson - 11lbs Lavender Farm



Francesca Halford and first carp!



Gemma Baker



Jak Carron - 16lbs 2ozs Swanborough Lakes



Layla and Evie Miller - 18lbs Iden Wood Fishery



Ollie Abbott - 16lbs 10ozs



Theo at Tricklebrook Fishery

Well done Sydney!

Proud dad Rob Smith sent in this great report for daughter Sydney after she caught a brace of splendid looking carp! Well done Sydney!



"Sydney managed to nick a couple of mid doubles on a three night session recently on our Kent club water. Both fish fell to 15mm Mainline Activate pop ups over a handful of 'match the hatch' 16mm activates with a Multi rig at the business end."

Poppy shows dad how to fish!

Scott Mansell sent in this great report after he and daughter Poppy fished at Hawkhurst Fish Farm"



"Myself and my daughter Poppy took a trip to Hawkhurst Fish Farm during a recent fine weekend and fished the junior lakes. We had a great afternoon with Poppy showing me how to fish and catching 10 carp in total! We will definitely be heading back there so I can redeem myself soon!" Best wishes, Scott and Poppy

Monster carp for Harley!

Harley Lawrie-Raison had a terrific session recently resulting in the capture of a huge carp known as 'The Big Common'! Harley has written an account of his awesome session:



"I arrived at Viaduct lake (DDAPS) at 8am in the rain. I set up the brolly to keep the gear dry and then focused on my rods, it was hard fishing through the day. I found a couple of gravel spots, but nothing really that was worth fishing on. That evening when the bailiff walked round he told me of a spot. It was a gravel spot near the far snags on the other side, he said it should give me a couple fish through the night. The night passed and nothing happened. I got up at 6am and re-baited my rods. Shortly after, I had two bream, one on each rod. I put the rods back out and had confidence a carp would come. At 12pm I had another bream but nothing really through the day, not even a bleep. The following night I put my rods back out and I thought it was perfect. I kept saying that's the one, that's the one. At 11pm, shortly after dinner, my rod ripped off. Although it wasn't anything big, it was still the fish I was looking for. An eleven pounds common and I was happy and went to sleep with a smile on my face knowing I hadn't blanked!

I got up that morning and thought it's my last chance. I found the spot, spombed up and put both rods on the money. By 7am everyone was up and my mates were packing up. Still nothing else by 10am so I just sat behind my rods with confidence instead of moving them again. I said my goodbyes to my mates and went to bait up again hoping it will bring them in. I went round to the swim next door because it was an easier angle to cast to my spot, I was loading up my spomb and heard three bleeps and my rod went tight, then a massive drop back! I ran round and hit my rod. It felt like reeling in a sand bag, the head came up shortly after a short five minute fight under the rod tip. It just about fitted in the net and I didn't really think anything of it because of the fight. It was only when I tried to pick the net up that I realised that I had caught something big! I opened the net and realised it was 'the big common'... all 36lbs 13ozs of it.

I was absolutely buzzing! I couldn't wait to get on the phone to tell my Dad and friends. The bailiff soon came back round and confirmed the weight. The adrenaline was real, I was so chuffed with myself and this is why I love fishing. Cannot wait to get back out onto the bank." **Harley Lawrie-Raison ~ age 13**



Reflections Angling "Making Fishing a reality for all"
01306 735598

Henfold Bait and Tackle has begun its Spring / Summer evening sessions as part of the Reflections Angling Project for young anglers at Henfold Lakes near Dorking.



Alison Edser told me: "We have just had our first junior evening session at Henfold Lakes. Our junior anglers are progressing really well, from small beginners last summer to greater, more confident young anglers this season, we have really noticed the difference and growing confidence.

We have just completed our first session of the season (Wednesday 13/4/22) and what an awesome evening was enjoyed by all those who attended! Bring on more evenings like this, not only for our young anglers, but for the pleasure it brings to Dave and myself seeing so many happy young faces!



Our next junior event will be next Wednesday 20th April 2022 from 4.30pm to 7.30pm. The cost is £25.00 per person. Following on, we will continue to arrange one evening per week



on a Wednesday or Thursday to give as many young anglers the opportunity to attend. The young people can use their own kits or kit can be provided by prior arrangement, the same goes with bait. We are qualified coaches and have other qualified personnel and experienced anglers on hand to maximise the fishing experience for all those who come along to our evenings.

If you would like to join us for a fun, fish filled evening, call Alison on 07956 043922 for further information or to book a place."



Great memories for Casey and Ben!

A proud and excited dad, Ben Hogben, sent in this report after he and daughter Casey had a most memorable session at Cottington Lakes:

"I booked a trip on Lake Christine at Cottington for 3 nights and took my 11 year old daughter Casey as she absolutely loves her fishing at the moment. We managed to get pegs 1 and 2, Casey wanted to try her new 9' Nash Dwarf rod which we purchased at the shop on the Open Day. On the first evening Casey decided to go with a 12mm milky toffee pop-up infused with a mix of tiger nut and butter corn goo, this was mounted onto her favourite Ronnie rig to which she attached a small pva mesh filled with crushed boillie, casters and the same goos. Casey flicked her rig to the edge of an



overhanging tree and within 20 minutes her alarm melted off. Casey had a small tussle with the fish close in and we managed to net him with no fuss!! Great start with 'The Carrot', a 22lbs koi that resides in the lake. The following day was very quiet as we headed into the afternoon so Casey suggested that we put the 'deeper' out to see if we could locate the majority of the fish. We did this sharing the casting and managed to find two spots that clearly had more

fish than others. After getting an idea of where the majority of the carp were, Casey decided to fish another Ronnie rig, but this time used a red energy goo, but exactly same as before with a different flavour. Around 4-5 hours later her alarm indicated a big drop back, once Casey had wound the reel a few times she then made contact with the fish and was holding on to the rod for dear life.... the fish took line which was then gained a few times, but Casey's arms were tiring so I took over for a bit to give Casey a breather. Once the fish had calmed and a rather tired Casey took over and I then managed to slide the draw cord of the net under the fish. She said "It's only a 20 in it dad??. Errrrrr I replied.... I don't think so.... we both peered into the bottom of the net in excitement and as I lifted it we saw the size of this absolute pearler of a common carp! Mint she was. We both looked at each other gob smacked!! We got the fish into the sling and onto the mat to weigh. I had already zeroed the scales and the Reuben Heatons swung round to 30lbs 8ozs!!! A trip of a life time that we both thoroughly enjoyed! We can't wait to go back in May." **Ben & Casey Hogben**



May update

from director
Charles Jardine



"Everyone Learns Differently!"

That is our mantra at Fishing for Schools! Immediately you may jump to the conclusion that this purely applies to the many hundreds of young people who come through and are taught within our initiative each year...and you would not be wrong ...but, teaching is – and always has been, a two way street. Styles, methods, approaches, content – all have their part to play in how we get our key points across.

Not one of us has the perfect approach...nor could we ever hope to know it all. This, and the sheer excitement of imparting what we know or have accumulated in our life experiences, is the major factor in coaching or teaching. Angling is no different and neither is working as a team.

Goodness knows how many years ago, when I started Fishing for Schools, I was determined that this was not to be elitist, out of touch, niche – worse; that we would have some sort of hierarchy where everyone is equal...but some a little more equal than others.... Thus, whilst I am director, I am painfully aware that I am absolutely no better than the coaches. I have stuff to learn and more often than not they are my tutors! So why this 'hand wringing' and admission....?

Well I organised a CPD day (Continuous Professional Development) at the fabulous Brick Farm Fishery at Herstmonceux for the F4S team of coaches.

The offer came via the newish Angling Trust Southern Coordinator and facilitator Graham Mabey, when we met up for a day's fishing at Broadlands, not trout or salmon, I might add, but trotting the gentle roach and silver flash dace. What fun it was and so productive for both of us. We made a pact that we would work together, bring Graham's fund of knowledge and experiences in his previous world of both adult and children's education into the domain of our coaches and have a bit of education and fun.

The obvious venue was Brick Farm and Danni and Phil Axell, who kindly consented to be our latest Fishing for Schools Ambassadors, were the very perfect hosts. From the



pastries, continuous tea and coffee, lunch... everything, they just went far and away beyond the call of duty. Amazing! And the fishery looked superb. A distraction for the fly fishers....(or as Graham described – the Water Whippers: a bit disingenuous! Graham we like to think we dance with angels and caress the water...)



But there was absolutely no doubt of the benefit to everyone, to come together as a group, discuss, build confidence, understand each other's strengths – and weaknesses, and just understand different ways of connecting to not just one another, but the shared experiences of reaching out to young people.

It is vital, not only to Fishing for Schools and one another, that the learning process is a work in progress and never stagnates.

More than that ...we laughed a good deal, at ourselves mostly ...but we laughed and that, is a recipe for success in itself ...and I should add, the combining of two key pillars within the angling community: Fishing for Schools and the Angling Trust. The more we can work together then the better the fishing world will be, collectively.

Time to get cracking and learn and work together for the good of everyone!

Charles Jardine



May update

by instructor
Warren White



Fishing in general seems to be in a healthy place at present!

Rod licence sales are booming and many Angling clubs have now had to adopt a waiting list as their memberships are full. This has all come about when in 2020 the government lifted restrictions on outdoor activities, including fishing being able to open up for most of this time, and our sport has really prospered.

It appears that fishing is heading in the right direction, as before Covid, a lot of Angling clubs were struggling to fill their membership, especially the Juniors, which was worrying as they are the future. The general consensus is that young people these days like to spend their time indoors on online games. Where I agree this can be a problem, children also like to do outdoor activities, given the opportunity and my Angling courses have always been oversubscribed.



Todd learning to use the disgorger



Rowhill school on their BTEC fisheries course, lopping a tree

I realised early on that in order to get more people into fishing, local partnerships need to be made and this can be highlighted by the relationship we have with our local Angling club T.W.A.P.S (Thameside Works Angling Preservation Society).

Throughout the year, and mainly with my work with Fishing for Schools, we put on sessions at a club water, Shorne Country Park, for schools, mental health and Disability groups and other Junior courses. You would be surprised how many new people want to try fishing, but just don't know where to start!

The club, with chairman Dennis Hammond at the helm, are active and helpful in making our courses run smoothly. They allow us to book an area to do our coaching, taping off the area the night before the event. They help fund the event by not charging for the day tickets and the most important thing, they make available a park fishery that has wonderful facilities and is well stocked with fish. In return we give an opportunity to a wide variety of people, young and older, the chance to try fishing and be at one with nature, in the hope that this will lead to them taking up angling as a hobby and going on to join the club.

I know first hand that from the courses we run at Shorne Country Park we are seeing more of our juniors and parents joining the club so we must be doing something right!

Warren White



Fishing 4 Schools course with Thamesview school



Charlton Athletic Community Trust

TROUT INFORMER



Brick Farm Lakes

Herstmonceux, East Sussex



The last few weeks have seen some fantastic fishing, particularly across the beautiful sunny Bank Holiday weekend. We are noticing some nice buzzer hatches and sedges are working well - dry flies are producing nice fish, particularly in the evenings. Successful flies have been a real mixed box from Buzzers to Damsel Nymphs and the dries as above! We have welcomed several newcomers to fly fishing either having lessons or coming along with friends, happy to be leaving with their first trout. Most notable of the last few days include **Ashley Singer** who was thrilled with an 8lbs 2ozs rainbow from Spring Lake, **Mark Leeves** with a 6lbs 7ozs Rainbow, **James Stone** with a 9lbs 4ozs Brown from Brick Lake on Easter Sunday, and **Ian Robertson** with a 12lbs 14ozs Brown from Well Lake on a Cats Whisker on Bank Holiday Monday - well done all of you!

As the days are getting longer, the Last Cast board in the Lodge is changing time weekly - if you're on site you are now able to fish until around 8pm, but this is assessed and adapted every week, and if no anglers are on site then we may lock up to 2 hours before sunset time.

Brick Farm Lakes Trout Fishery

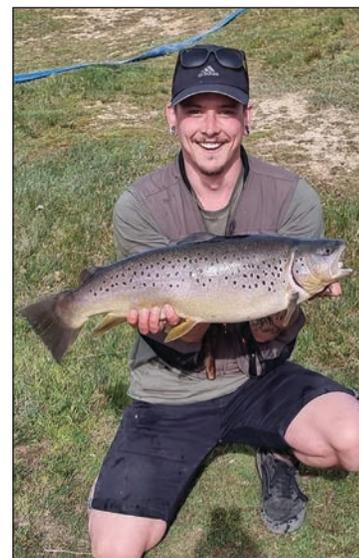
Prices start from £32 for 2 fish
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Corporate & group bookings welcome
with food options available

Set within the stunning East Sussex countryside, Brick Farm Lakes is a friendly family run Trout fishery comprising 4 lakes stocked with Rainbow, Blue, Golden and Brown trout, from 2lb upwards, including some double-figure sizes to challenge our anglers. Set back from the road, almost in a secret valley of it's own, we have a superb oak-framed lodge overlooking Brick Lake. The lodge provides a warm and welcome space offering complimentary tea & coffee for anglers, along with homemade cakes and other refreshments.



Tel: 01323 832615 / 07730 277118
www.brickfarmlakes.co.uk

The Fishing Lodge
Brick Farm
Herstmonceux
East Sussex
BN27 4RS





Tenterden Trout Waters

Tenterden, Kent

April has produced some great fishing for our Anglers and it has been fantastic to welcome many young fishermen to our Fishery over the Easter Holidays. It's super to see the generations passing on their skill sets to the young and we embrace this at Tenterden. Father & Son, Dan & Gabriel had a good day's fishing here as you can see in the photo and Gabriel (Son) nailed it 2-1. Congratulations! We had a fantastic Easter weekend of fishing here and hosting guests in our Shepherds Hut - see our website for Airbnb availability. The weather was fabulous and we all welcomed it!



Gabriel and Dan - Father and Son fishing

Our Lakeside Fishery Lodge is open for you to enjoy providing tea/coffee with our compliments. We have great facilities with kitchen/dining/sofa, toilet and lakeside balcony where you can relax. All this adds to a good fishing experience for friends and family at Tenterden.

Please call or email gaynor@coombe-farm.com 01580 763201 to book your fishing. If we don't answer please leave a message, name and number and we will get back to you asap. We will limit our numbers to 12 Anglers fishing at any one time to create the space you all need - it works well.

Stay & Fish Our Shepherds Hut accommodation is open for both Anglers who wish to stay and fish and for other guests who just welcome a short break away. If a staycation is of interest to you this Spring/Summer then we are offering 20% off our permit prices if you stay in our Ghillies Hut. For more info discover our 'Shepherds Hut' heading on our website with a direct link to Airbnb - click on Availability and Bookings.

Fishing Tuition can be booked direct with Richard Stokes, our Instructor, please email richard@coombe-farm.com if you are interested in learning a new skill in 2022. Now is a great time to learn being the Trout Fishing season and currently good weather. It is always fun to learn new things in life and you can purchase a lesson as a gift voucher experience for someone special.

For an up-to-date fishing report please go to our website: www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk and click on News/Fishing Report. You will find an Aerial Tour on our Home Page so you can view our picturesque Wealden setting. Please follow us on Instagram and Facebook and visit our Gallery.

We are one of the Top 50 Stillwater Trout Fisheries in the British Isles and a Trout Master Water.

We offer Gift Vouchers for that special present which can be purchased by bank transfer, cheque or cash. Please call Gaynor on 01580 763201 or email: gaynor@coombe-farm.com - we can email/send them out for you.

We look forward to welcoming you here for some exciting Spring fishing at our friendly, family owned Fishery where you will catch some hard fighting Trout!

Tight Lines - Gaynor, Richard & Audrey

TENTERDEN TROUT WATERS
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 We aim to provide an excellent day's sport in beautiful Wealden Countryside.
 Day Permit £40 = 4 best fish
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 Regular stocking of top quality Rainbows, Browns & Blues to 12lbs
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Current patterns: Black Buzzer, Daddys, Montana Goldhead. Trout are deeper, intermediate line working well. All 3 Lakes (just under 5 acres of water) are fully stocked with quality Rainbows, Blues & Brownies so make sure you fish them all when you are visiting to get the maximum out of your visit, we suggest you move every hour. We do request that our Brownies are returned to the water.



Cinder Hill Fly Fishing 2022



With more commercial waters now lost to us, one of Mid-Sussex's best kept secrets, Cinder Hill Fly Fishing is thriving and able to offer some of the region's most natural, unspoilt, top quality and affordable trout fishing. Early membership applications are advisable.

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- For details contact:
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Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman

Lure Fishing

Spring Hill Trout Waters

I'm loving my fly fishing so much that I convinced James Gardner to join me at **SPRING HILL, PEMBURY TN2 4BB - 01892 826041**. We received a warm welcome from Lee and Jane Green and it was good to catch up and hear their latest news. We were surprised to hear they were stocking a few double figure fish to their already impressive stocking programme. It's also worth mentioning their tagged fish; by paying an optional £2 you stand a chance of winning £100 if you catch a tagged fish. By the way there's more than one tagged fish, this all adds a little extra excitement to the fishing!

As the cold morning mist burnt off it quickly became a pleasant warm spring day. No sign of the light rain that was forecast. I didn't want rain, but some cloud cover would have been handy. Hardly any ripple to drift our flies meant we had to cast and retrieve in order to search the water. I started on a floating line while James elected to use a 'slow glass' intermediate that sinks at ½" per sec.

By using a floater I had to use an ultra-slow retrieve to maintain my fly's depth. Within a few casts I caught my first rainbow. I was watching my leader at the end of the retrieve, slowly lifting my line off the water before executing the hang, when suddenly a fish appeared out of the depths and took my static sub-surface fly, awesome! When this happens you know your presentation is near perfect as the fish had plenty of time to inspect the fly before taking it. Putting up a spirited fight it soon became clear it wasn't a fresh stockie, but a better than average fish. I quickly wound up my loose line preferring to play fish off the reel.

There's something very satisfying about the sound of a singing drag as a fish powers off into the distance. Slowly, but surely, I gained control and slipped it into the net at the first attempt.

A good start but it didn't herald fast and furious action as we both struggled to identify the taking depth. After an hour or so James had managed a couple of fish on a black UV Diawl Bach, but they had come on different 'count downs' i.e. different depths so we were still no wiser as to what depth we should be fishing. I moved to another spot allowing me to cast along the bank,



This Springhill rainbow fancied a red UV Diawl Bach



A special fish from Bewl Water caught by my good friend Gary Collins on a Tequila FAB.

Estimated at 10lbs and released to fight another day!

we'd identified that most takes were coming at the end of our retrieves, as the fly entered the margins so it seemed a sensible tactic. I was now on an intermediate line too which allowed me to mix up retrieve speeds as I searched for a winning combination. Also I could now use small unweighted flies such as Crunchers and Diawl Bach's which might trip up any canny fish that had 'wised up' to the larger marabou tailed flies, popular on small fisheries.

I quickly caught a fish after moving pegs, and changing lines. However, I couldn't repeat my success so I'd still not solved the depth conundrum. We both moved around searching for fish, but as the afternoon progressed we were still searching for an answer. Finally the breeze picked up and a little cloud cover improved the situation and the fish started to feed. It was as if a switch had been flicked as we both started catching on slowly drifted flies set at 4-5ft depth. The breeze provided the movement and we just balanced our flies to sink very slowly through the water column. It now seemed so easy! I hooked into another fish that tore off like a scalded cat and as it neared the net I noticed it was sporting a pale blue tag. I got very excited at the prospect of catching a prize fish when, the hook feel out! Oh no!

And so another enjoyable day came to an end at Spring Hill.

RAVENSTHORPE RESERVOIR NN6 8LS - 01604 770875

James Gardner and I spent three days in the Midlands recently fishing two reservoirs neither of which we knew. **Day One** was on Ravensthorpe, a pretty little water of 100 acres, small by reservoir standards. A strong gale force wind was blowing across the reservoirs width which afforded a certain amount of shelter. Our drifts started in the shelter of the Lodge bank across to the Island on the opposite shore. The drift required different tactics to be employed the further you progressed down the wind. At first it was possible to fish unweighted nymphs on a floating line, 'straight line' buzzer style. My team consisted of a heavyweight Rutland buzzer size 8 – point, Olive quill buzzer size 12 – middle, natural UV Cruncher size 10 – top. James was using similar flies and tactics and although we thought we were both doing the same thing buzzer fishing has an uncanny knack of throwing you a curve ball. As always the trout dictates who's got the best presentation. On this rare occasion they preferred my subtle approach of just keeping 'in touch' with my line without any tension allowing my flies to 'free fall' through the upper layers of the water.

Further down the wind the boat started yawing from side-to-side. This yawing created so much tension in our lines that our flies were unable to fall seductively down through the water column and our takes stopped! Finally as we drifted into the shallow margins, the boat picked up extra speed and yawed even more violently. Unsurprisingly we failed to catch there too! The rest of the fleet were anchored on the downwind shore where it shelved from deep to shallow. This is a classic location for fish that are grazing on bloodworms and other fly larvae early in the season.

After taking a lunch break at anchor we resumed our drifting approach. To improve my presentation I switched to a Rio 'midge tip – long'. This dug in sufficiently to prevent my flies from riding up as the boat yawed from side-to-side, especially as we neared the shallow downwind margins. Although I did catch a couple of fish with this change in tactics it still wasn't the total answer. Not until we dropped anchor did we really start catching fish regularly. It was dramatic the difference, instead of an occasional fish we were both catching fish or missing takes on almost every cast! What a fantastic way to finish our first day.

PITSFORD RESERVOIR NN6 9SJ - 01604 781350

Day Two James and I were invited to fish with the England Flyfishers Club at Pitsford the following day. However the weather had other ideas and with gale force winds all day boat fishing was cancelled.

Day Three Pitsford again and what a difference a day makes! We were greeted with bright sunshine and barely a breath on wind. We were flabbergasted by the huge amount of flies on the water and in the air! Our starting approach was to use floating lines and buzzers obviously, but on lighter gauge hooks to keep them nearer the surface as we could see fish leisurely breaking the surface everywhere. Surprisingly it wasn't until I changed to a heavy Rutland buzzer on the point, to create more angle in my leader to separate the flies in depth, that I started catching fish, surprisingly on the deeper point fly. We both bagged a few fish which gave us that all important confidence that we could catch on this water too.

Within the hour the breeze picked up ruffling the surface, and the fish evaporated. And so the searching began. We drifted huge areas of the reservoir looking for fish. Not knowing the reservoir we explored Pitsford Creek on the downwind shore. This proved fruitless so we moved to the up-wind shore and angled drifts along the Sailing Club bank finishing at the dam. I had a couple of half-hearted takes when I retrieved faster than usual. This led me to switch to the midge-tip line so I could add some speed into my retrieve without lifting my flies. A welcome fish on the hang near the dam was all I managed, so time to move on. We had been advised that Brixworth Bay had held plenty of fish earlier in the week so this was our next 'port of call'. Oh my god it was fish soup! Fish were showing everywhere in the clear shallow water. All change again, off came the midge-tip, on went the floater and a lighter smaller point fly. Instantly we were both catching fish. It's been said a million times before, but location is everything! You can't catch if you're not where the fish are. I know it's an obvious statement but sometimes we think some invincible tactic or bit of kit is the answer, but if you're not on fish they won't see it! By making drifts along the bank from Brixworth Bay to Three Trees in 5-10ft we continued catching until it got too dark to see and reluctantly we had to pack up and look forward to a long three hour journey home. What fun!

Til' next month, tight lines - Andy Lush



A Pitsford brown trout caught during a hectic feeding frenzy



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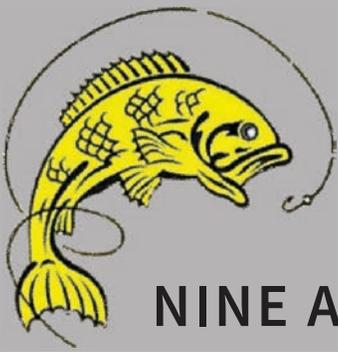
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