

Dave at
Mousehole Lakes
41lbs

FREE



Sandwich
Coarse Fishery

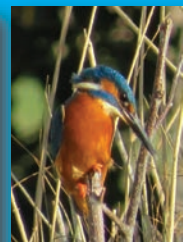
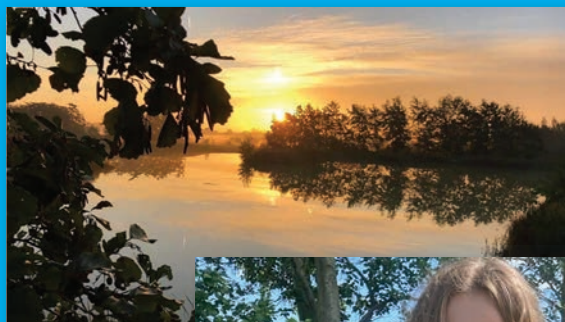


Tel: 07936 409912

email: enquiries@sandwichlakes.co.uk

www.sandwichlakes.co.uk

Sandwich Ash Road (A257), Near Canterbury CT3 2DA



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

October was a fine month, if you didn't watch or listen to the news broadcasts! We enjoyed some delightful days during the month when you could have been mistaken that we were back in the Spring. Admittedly some nights were on the chilly side, only to be expected at this time of year, but on the whole conditions were very good. However, it was another dry month, far too dry as we are still desperate for rainfall and although we had some rain, it didn't go anywhere near far enough to replenish our reserves. If we don't receive substantial amounts soon we are facing a difficult 2023!

Catch reports throughout the last few weeks have been very good and some lovely fish were caught as you will see in this month's magazine. The carp have been feeding well and surprisingly and until very recently the catfish have also remained active. However, as you would expect, November will see changes as fishing becomes a little more challenging, but there are still rewards to be had. I mentioned in the Junior section that by fining down tackle and switching bait choice, a bite can often be found. A different mindset is needed at this time of year and fishing for one bite at a time is necessary.

It was very sad to see that Just Fishing Tackle at Orpington closed its doors early in October. Trading conditions are tough for all small businesses, especially retail and it cannot be stated often enough that unless local tackle shops are supported we may very well see more close for good during the winter. If you do buy online, try and ensure it is mail order from a tackle shop in your area so you are still supporting in some way. I do understand that everyone is trying to save a few pounds, but once our local shops are gone, they are gone forever.

Please be aware that the Freshwater Informer magazines fly out of the shops and fisheries as soon as they are delivered so you do need to pick up a copy promptly to ensure you get one! Unfortunately I have to find a balance between printing and profitability to make the business viable so I cannot simply print unlimited amounts as you will appreciate that printing is a mega expensive process and the single biggest expenditure each month for the magazine. If you want to ensure you receive a copy each month we have a subscription service that costs just £25 per year and sees a magazine posted to you each month for a year. A subscription could be a useful Christmas present for that 'awkward to buy for' angler in your family! Food for thought!

Enjoy your fishing! Barry Reed



The Freshwater Informer

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COPY DEADLINE for DECEMBER 2022

MONDAY 21st November 2022 at 5pm

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Paul and Kelly Copperwaite welcome you to Villedieu Lake, which they call their piece of paradise in France! Their journey began back in 2006 when they fell in love with France, the people, the food, and the way of life. After multiple trips back and forth from the UK looking at properties, they found their dream at Villedieu Lake in 2019 and have never looked back. Paul has been a Carp Angler for over 30 years and before moving to France undertook a fisheries management course, so he could further his knowledge as a Fishery Owner.

Paul and Kelly have carried out an enormous amount of work at the property, which had been vacant for some 30 years. They have now restored the lake and the dream is becoming a reality! The Lake is opening as a brand-new venue, which has never been commercially fished, and they look forward to welcoming other Anglers in March 2023 and to sharing this stunning location with you and your friends.



email: villedieulake@hotmail.com



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Tricklebrook Fishery Five Oak Green, Kent

Graham Beadle - 26lbs 14ozs Old Lake



Graham Beadle - 33lbs Old Lake



Owen Macauley - 16lbs Old Lake



Owen Macauley - 21lbs Old Lake



Lee - Old Lake



Wayne Annett - 30lbs 12ozs Old Lake

Graham Beadle One Scale
25lbs 10ozs from Old Lake**Elphicks
Fisheries**

Horsmonden, Kent



Charley Phillips - 42lbs 8ozs Pullens Lake



Danny Benham - 48lbs Westend Lake



Lee Rooke - 42lbs 6ozs Westend Lake

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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**



North Lake



North Lake - Cracker



Paul Kemp - 42lbs Pullens Lakes



Paul Kent - 21lbs Plantation Lake



Dave Wetherell - 33lbs 8ozs Prairie Lake



Neil Corder - Plantation Lake

www.elphicks-fisheries.co.uk

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LAKE RULES

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
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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 SUMMER 7AM - 7PM WINTER 7AM TO DUSK



Gabriels Fishery Edenbridge, Kent



We have been very busy at Gabriels over the past month. We took deliveries of mirror and common carp which have gone into Oak and Silver lakes and we also stocked an additional 500 roach and rudd into **Silver Lake**. The fishing at Gabriels has really taken off in the last month following the addition of the common and mirror carp. We have received reports that anglers have had catches of up to 17 fish on the bank at **Oak Lake** on a day session. Water levels are up and the autumn feed up is definitely underway. Work continues around **Admiral Lake** with general maintenance and improving the paths and will continue over the coming months.



Fine trio for Jake!



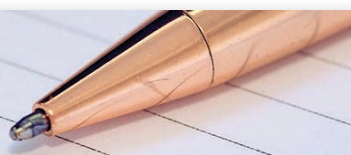
Jake Carley had a great session at Elphicks Fishery where he fished on North Lake.



He managed this fine trio of fish!

Well done Jake!

Letter to the editor



Robin Piper put pen to paper and sent in this report:

Dear Barry, One more story from my latest visit to Claygate Lakes where I fished Lake Eva. The forecast was for cloud and sunny periods which seemed promising. On arrival the car park only contained a few cars which was different from previous visits when the fishery had been busy. I had a choice of swims on Eva and plumped for peg 16 which I have named the 'Summer House swim' as it is set up with all the home comforts including a deckchair!

I baited with a prawn on a size 12 Pallatrax Gripz hook, 8lbs bs line and my trusty 10' leger rod and cast to the island. Fish are often caught within moments of casting in, but on this occasion that wasn't to be and after two and a half fishless hours, apart from one small carp, I decided to change tactics and switched to floating crust. However, that normally successful tactic also failed to deliver the goods so I switched to popped up bread which produced a couple of small carp. Nothing further happened so I went back to floating crust and this time had a number of carp, nothing big, but fish to around 3lbs. I finished the session with just over 26lbs which is a low weight for me on Eva as I have done very well previously. On the plus side, Dave has



completed a lot of bankside work during the Summer months and the whole fishery is very neat and tidy.

A week later I returned and fished peg 37 on Eva, the far peg. To start the session the water was still and looked very promising, but during the day, as predicted, the wind increased and the surface down in to the bay where I was fishing became covered with a carpet of leaves. With no clear water to see and just one carp caught I decided to pack up as the clouds were building and rain was expected. That's fishing! Regards, Robin Piper



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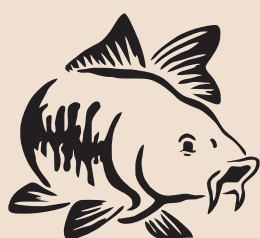


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Hugh on **07973 410973**
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Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

Ben and I are excited to announce that we will again be offering our yearly membership. Please see our Facebook page for all the details. Well, its that time of the year where we see slightly less anglers on the bank due to the cooler weather which in turn sees Ben and I start the annual winter works. As of writing this report the tree work, cutting back the margins, repairing and raking out the swims and applying new woodchip to the lakes and ponds has begun. Please be aware that while we conduct the winter works you may find us splashing about in the cold water, but as always we will be considerate of your angling. Well done and good angling to the following:

Snipe Lake has been its usual up and down, but we did have some exciting news, more on that in a bit. **Callum Blith** banked a 25lbs mirror on his first visit to us, **George Burrett** had a 24lbs 6ozs common and a 27lbs 7ozs mirror, **Phil Clegg** continued his good form banking a 25lbs 8ozs common and a 26lbs 4ozs linear, **Jamie Smith** continued his success when he banked a 22lb common, **Brian Doran** banked a 28lbs common, **Mick Box** banked one of the smaller commons at 16lbs, **Scott Harvey** landed a 22lbs mirror, **Peter Murphy** had a 17lbs mirror then a 28lbs 2ozs common which is now his **PB**, **Sam Hewett** banked a 21lbs mirror, **Ian York** broke his dodgy run when he banked a 25lbs 13ozs common, **Matt Goodchild** landed a 25lbs 8ozs mirror, **David Hanbrook** banked a 26lbs 2ozs mirror, but the star of the show this month was **Steve Duffy** who, just like last month, was only fishing nights due to work, but continued his good form banking a small common, a 20lbs 8ozs common, a 21lbs common, a 24lbs 8ozs common, a 29lbs 14ozs common, a 27lbs 12ozs mirror and for the third time he banked 'Hayley's Mirror' at a very impressive new lake record weight of 38lbs 14ozs. Congrats to Steve, some great angling there.

Westlake as you would expect, the cats have slowed down a bit with the temps dropping, but there have been some amazing results to some anglers.

Vic Collier had 8 cats to 33lbs, **Martin Smith** had 13 cats to 48lbs, **Alex Hope** had 4 to 55lbs, **Alan Teakle** has banked a few this month to 47lbs 4ozs, **Nathan Thomas** banked 2 to 61lbs 8ozs, Cindy Wilson banked 2 cats to a new **PB** of 27lbs 8ozs, **Stuart Pirie** banked 8 cats to 50lbs, **Phil Parsons** had a new **PB** of 53lbs, **Ryan Hickling** banked 25 cats to a new **PB** of 62lbs 5ozs and a 3lbs eel, and **Mark Slade** smashed it again when he banked 20 cats averaging 30lbs, a 51lb then an amazing **PB** of 79lbs 15ozs.



Phil Parsons - 53lbs New PB



Nathan Thomas



Martin Smith



Mark Slade - 79lbs 15ozs PB

Daughters Lake has proved to be a tad tricky at times. A few that did were, **Gary Granger** banking a 14lbs 8ozs mirror, **Ricky B** had a 19lbs 10ozs fully scaled mirror, **Billy Snape** banked an 11lbs 1oz common and 2 grassies at 11lbs 8ozs and 15lbs 8ozs, **Mark Slade** banked a 13lbs 5ozs common and **Tom Fedczuk** banked a 12lbs 2ozs mirror and a grassie of 26lbs 5ozs.



Terry Edwards

Majors Lake has been hit especially hard with the low water levels and we have shut off most of the swims with only the deep end swims available to fish from, these swims have been producing to anglers again this month. A few examples are **Alex Chapman** who banked 3 commons and a 17lbs ghostie, **Colin Chapman** banked an 11lbs 2ozs mirror, **Dennis Wheeler** had a 10lbs 8ozs common and **Terry Edwards** banked a mirror of 18lbs 3ozs.

Moat Pond has been a bit tricky due to fluctuating water levels, anglers who have timed it right have done ok. **Paul Kelly** banked 7 carp to 10lbs 14ozs.

Eden Pond like last month, the fishing has been unpredictable. The colder temps have seen the tench starting to lay low a bit, but we have seen a few anglers struggle on days and we have seen others banking well with multiple tench, bream and small carp being banked. Well done to **Martin** and **Karen Davies** who, on a couple of visits to us, have banked over 20 fish of all species, bream, tench F1s, commons and mirrors to 8lbs and **John Howe** banked 1 F1, 3 bream and 5 tench.

Maze Lake has seen anglers banking F1s, bream and plenty of silvers. An example of this is **Dave Hursley** who banked 11 bream, 4 F1s and plenty of silvers.

Jeff's Lake is the place to go to for a decent chance of banking a few fish on your day sessions as it is still producing multiple catches. F1s are the main fish banked with bream, small carp and tench also making an appearance. Method feeder and pellet is the main tactic, the warmer afternoons fishing up in the water seems to be the way forward.



Al Randall



Callum Blith



Scott Harvey



Ian York



Steve Duffy - 38lbs 14ozs New Lake Record



Mick Box



Tom Fedczuk



Gary Granger



Paul Kelly



Martin Davis



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We're even scrapping the first year's fishery software fee for readers of the Freshwater Informer - call Alfie on 07713 099 838 to setup a meeting.

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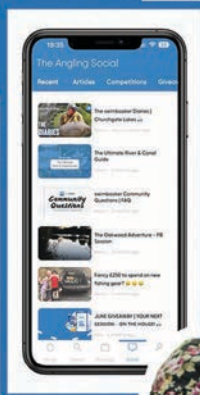


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Mousehole Lakes Paddock Wood, Kent



Stuart - 23lbs Kingfisher



Charlie - 31lbs Kestrel



Charlie on Kestrel



Jason - 26lbs 8ozs Kingfisher



Dave - 41lbs Kingfisher



Jeff - 33lbs 8ozs Kingfisher



Peter - 32lbs 7ozs Kestrel



Steve - 26lbs Kestrel



Stuart - 22lbs

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Greenacres Farm Fishery Biddenden, Kent

Speci 1 Fishing is steady now it's getting cooler and the water levels are on the rise with fish showing over small baited areas using your chosen choice of hook bait on the hair. Stealth is the way to go as they are very spooky because of the water levels still being low at the moment, but hopefully not for long.

Speci 2 Carp are still showing to solid pva bags with savoury flavour hook baits instead of fish meal as they are being dominated by the large catfish. Robin red halibut pellets and luncheon meat seem to be the best baits at the minute for catfish which are mainly getting caught late afternoons and through the night to early mornings. Catfishing has slowed up now that the colder weather has moved in, but this only means that the pike are waking up!

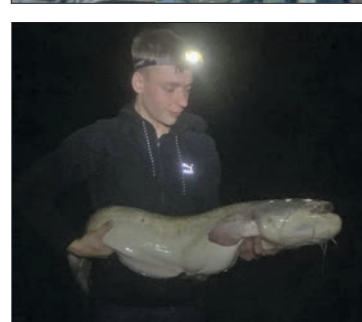
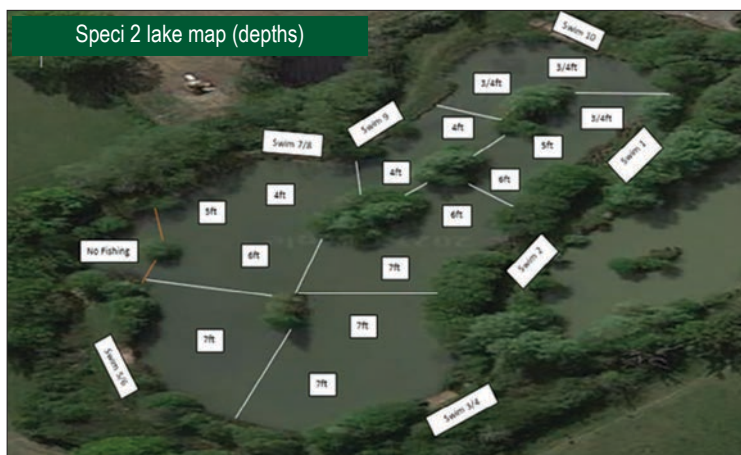
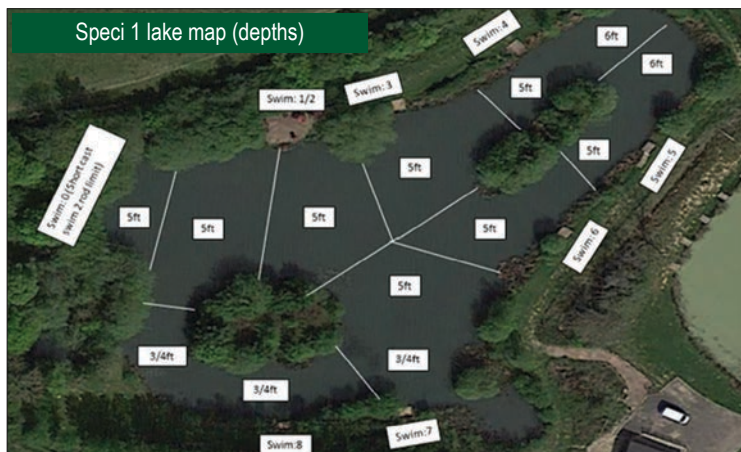
Heron Still fishing really well on float or quiver tactics for a mixed bag of fish, please don't use any keepnets as water levels are still low.

Kingfisher This is a brilliant lake if you are starting up fishing for the first time as it is full of fish and keeps you busy all day. This lake can also be booked for matches if you give us a call on 07933 934942

Bluebell A very unique lake tucked out the way, this lake holds some lovely tench to 6lb and carp to 10lb and is very peaceful.

Rules

- Dip all nets, slings, unhooking mats and cradles before entering any lakes or you will be asked to leave.
- No takeaways after 6pm
- No bins on site, so take all rubbish home including your fag butts
- Please read all the rules for each lake
www.greenacresfarmfishery.co.uk
- No keep nets unless authorised by a member of staff
- Single hooks when pike fishing 'No Trebles'





WANTSUM ANGLING ASSOCIATION

Marshside Lakes - River Wantsum - River Stour

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 River Wantsum CT7 0QN / a section of the River Stour CT3 1JB
 Marshside Fishery: Homersham Lake & Scroggins Lake CT3 4EB

Day Tickets available at all venues:

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**Night fishing:
 Only by prior booking.**

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

Contact Wantsum Angling Association on **01227 678063**
 or visit us at
www.wantsumaa.co.uk

We can also be contacted via the
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Sissinghurst Road | Biddenden | Kent | TN27 8EH

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

This beautiful setting needs to be visited and enjoyed!

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

Gates open at 7am and close at 7pm

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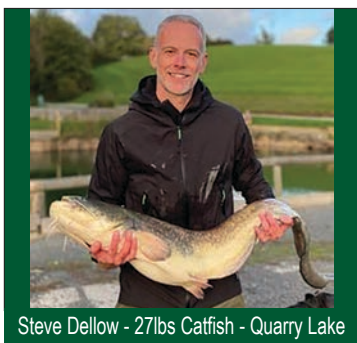
Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hawkhurst, Kent



Kevin Davidson - 25lbs Common - Dove Lake



Harry Blackmore - 19lbs Common - Main Lake



Steve Dellow - 27lbs Catfish - Quarry Lake



Main Lake - Sub Carp Socials



Harry Blackmore - 18lbs Common - Main Lake



Lee Kenna - 34lbs Common - Specimen Lake

Hawkhurst Fish Farm

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2023 Match Lake bookings

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Reece Milton - Main Lake



Harrison Clarke - 36lbs Common - Specimen Lake



Daniel Legg - Specimen Lake



Kieran Watson - 32lbs 2ozs Mirror - Specimen Lake



Reece Milton - 37lbs 8ozs Catfish - Main Lake



Kevin Davidson - 22lbs Common - Dove Lake

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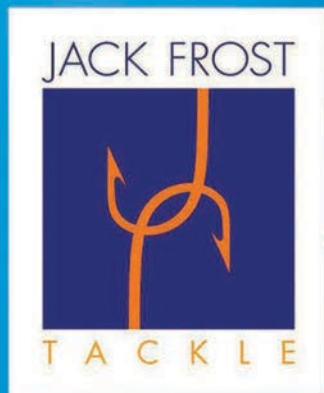
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Great day on the river for James Rose



James Rose had a good day on the Stour and managed a fine mixed bag of fish:

"A few really nice fish from a recent session on the Great Stour in Canterbury. All caught on light tackle with 5lbs bs line." Regards, James



A cut above the rest!

Sussex carper Bowie Duffield had some unexpected success with this huge fish 'off the top' in mid October!

"Well catching my first 40lbs off the surface in the middle of October with frost on the ground in the morning was definitely unexpected! I managed to get one single fish to take 2 mixers and the next one it took was mine! It's funny how it goes some times, a trip I nearly didn't go on after getting the dates wrong last week. I really feel I plucked this one from nowhere, right place, right time made the most of it .. but a fish I won't forget in a hurry!!"

Bowie runs his barbers shop at Sparrows Green near Wadhurst so why not book a haircut and get the maestro to give you the full story! Call 01892 783130.



New PBs for William!

Andy Benningfield sent in this report for son William:



"A couple of nice fish William for William recently. He had a 24lbs 3ozs Pike from Sutton at Hone on a lure which is a new PB. He also had a PB carp a couple of weeks previously from Horton Kirby at 31lbs 15ozs!"

THE WEDNESDAY CLUB MATCH RESULTS

ORCHARD PLACE FARM September 21st			ORCHARD PLACE FARM October 5th		
22 anglers			20 anglers		
1st	Aidrian Marshall	183lbs	1st	Mark Barnett	165lbs
2nd	John Pantrey	141lbs	2nd	Terry Golding	163lbs 8ozs
3rd	Rich Hall	125lbs	3rd	Del Lockwood	160lbs 8ozs
4th	Mark Barnett	112lbs	4th	Jeff Davis	140lbs 8ozs
MONK LAKES 3 September 28th			ORCHARD PLACE FARM October 12th		
21 anglers			20 anglers		
1st	Paul Redsell	180lbs 8ozs	1st	Mark Barnett	158lbs
2nd	Paul Wiltshire	99lbs 12ozs	2nd	Terry Golding	121lbs 8ozs
3rd	Ray the Dog	95lbs	3rd	Paul Jones	119lbs 4ozs
4th	Alan Turner	89lbs	4th	John Pantrey	115lbs 8ozs

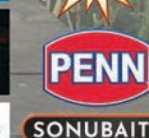
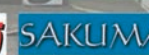


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So, you want to try Pike fishing? by Phil Wilkinson

In the first of a short series dedicated to this fish, leading Kent pike expert, Phil Wilkinson, gives you his low down on both capturing and caring for this amazing specie.

There are few, if any freshwater fish, which can excite, strike terror, fear or any other emotion more than pike and even the name sounds aggressive! There is nothing cuddly about a pike, but people love it. The pike has reigned supreme since our earliest fishing stories and texts, even before Medieval times. The fish is revered and so often misunderstood and whilst it is not exactly a gentle fish, the angler really must be gentle towards it. The lovely thing about a pike is, not only is it a killer, and sinister looking – a bit like a pantomime villain, the fish – the freshwater shark – can be shy, secretive and mysterious. The pike is a fish which commands both our respect and reverence. There is a lot to love about pike and fishing for them.

Let's get started!

We are now entering Autumn, the start of the traditional pike season which ends around the end of March or when the pike start spawning whichever comes first. After March, the water starts to warm up and pike will become stressed if fished for in warmer weather.



The best bit of advice I can give you as a starter in pike fishing is to go with someone who is experienced, as pike are a delicate fish and need handling and unhooking very carefully.

I'm going to set this article out as if I'm setting up my swim upon arrival at a lake or river bank and go through each item in turn that I use, starting with:

Landing Net It's surprising how often a bait can be taken as soon as it's cast out and nobody wants to be struggling trying to set up a net with a good fish on the line! The net should have arms at least 36" long (80cms) to allow a large pike to be landed in safety.

Unhooking Mat I place my mat in the middle of my swim as flat as the swim will allow. As pike are a sleek long fish with a 25lbs fish growing to an average length of a metre long, you can see why we are going to need a large mat of at least 4ft x 2ft (1.2m x 60cm) with good padding to protect any fish whilst being unhooked.

Unhooking tools I place these tools next to the unhooking mat. As pike can have between 600 and 700 razor sharp teeth coated with an anti-coagulant, we don't want our fingers anywhere near a pike's mouth so you should have a dedicated set of unhooking tools comprising of long handled pliers, strong wire cutters and forceps. I will clamp the forceps onto a hook, twist it free with the pliers whilst keeping my hands and fingers clear. In extreme circumstances it may be necessary to cut the hook to free it from the pike's mouth

Bank Sticks or Rod Pod It doesn't matter what your preference is as long as it is stable whilst fishing and will hold your rod in place when you get a bite and a fish takes line. If I'm using bank sticks, I will try and set them up one either side of my swim with space in the middle of the swim for unhooking to take place. If this is a problem, I will then use a rod pod in the middle of the swim so I can use the unhooking mat either side, this means I do not have to carry any fish far to get to the unhooking mat.

Alarms Any alarm will do for pike fishing, but, remember you'll be out in some of the worse conditions of the year so make sure they are up to the job during the winter. I have electrical tape around the battery compartment just to add a little extra waterproofing to them. (You can get specialist pike alarms that incorporate a swinging arm and when the arm drops the alarm will sound)

I use a drop off bobbin as an indicator but as I set my baitrunner to very loose or fish with the bail arm open (to reduce resistance to a taking fish) I attach it to the rear rod rest and clip it on just under the spool so the line will pull out and pay off the reel or drop back if a fish comes towards me. You can get drop off indicators which have solid arms, and these can be good on windy days. I set my bank sticks or rod pod up before my rods, so I have somewhere to put them down safely in the swim and do not have to step over them whilst moving around getting set up. I have heard the distinctive and sickening crack of a broken rod when someone stands on one laid on the ground only too often!

Rods Any rod of around 2.75 or 3lb test curve will be fine for pike fishing and as for length I personally prefer 11ft rods as I find they have a shorter handle which doesn't get caught on my clothing when casting, plus I don't have long arms! I carry my rods set up in a rod sleeve in a quiver holdall almost ready to go as I find this cuts down my time between arriving and starting fishing.

Reels Any good reel that will hold at least 150m of 15lb mono line or 50lb braid. They do not have to be a Baitrunner style of reel as a standard reel can be fished with the bail arm open and a bobbin stopping the line from spilling off the spool.

My swim set up on a misty morning, unhooking tools are inside the unhooking mat at the ready, shortly after the picture was taken I landed a 19lbs 6ozs Pike on the right hand rod. We now have our kit set out and just need to get our end tackle sorted!

Wire Trace Due to pike having sharp teeth that will slice straight through mono, you should always use wire for hook traces. To start out, I would recommend buying ready made traces from a reputable company, ask at your local tackle shop for advice, but as your piking career goes forward it can be a good feeling catching fish on traces you have made yourself. A normal pike trace will have 2 treble hooks on it that can be size 6, 4 or 2. I personally use size 4 hooks unless I'm using small baits then I will use size 6 hooks.

Treble Hooks No matter what size treble hooks you use it is best to use either semi barbed hooks (2 points with no barbs on) or crush the barbs down on 2 points, this will make unhooking a lot easier. The point with the barb left on is used as a bait holder. I put some Tippex on the barbed point so I can easily identify it when unhooking a fish. (There is a growing tendency by anglers to use single hooks for pike fishing and Bob Morris has written on this subject)



Up Trace An uptrace is used between the hook trace and the main line on certain pike set ups that prevents a fish from biting through the main line. This can happen for example when float fishing as a pike swims upwards to grab your bait and as it closes its mouth it could catch on your main line, unless you have an uptrace, and cut straight through it and be left with hooks in its mouth as it swims away. An uptrace is normally twice as long as a hook trace.

Next month, Phil looks at safely unhooking your pike and safely releasing it back to the water. Thanks to Fishing for Schools in allowing us to reproduce Phil's article from their Facebook page.



image courtesy of Sam Cox



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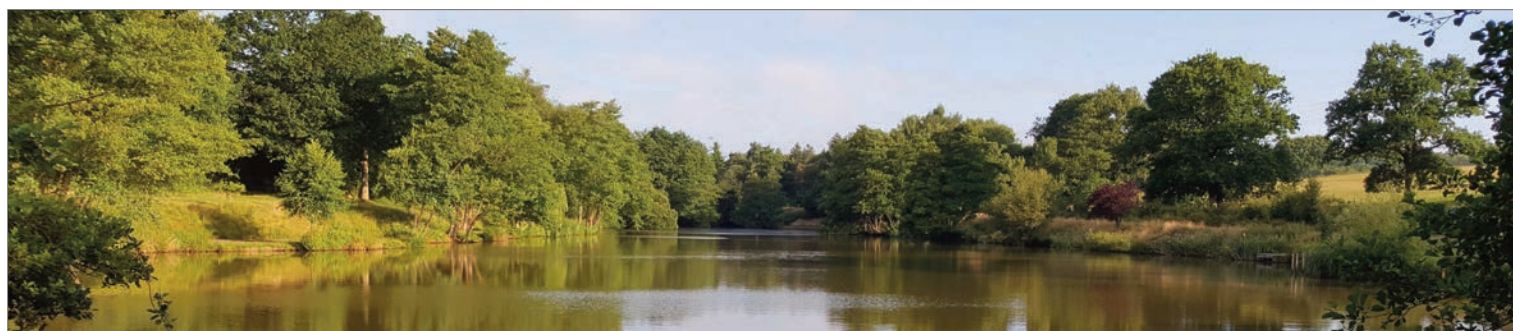
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Watch out for our Christmas opening times in next month's Freshwater Informer.



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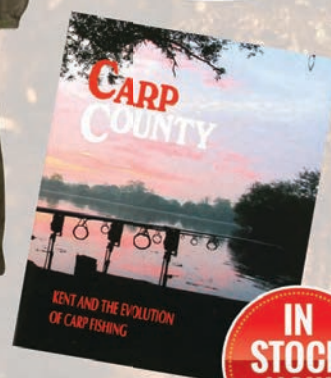
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Mark Day - Sandwich Lakes



Philip Simpson - 32lbs Mousehole



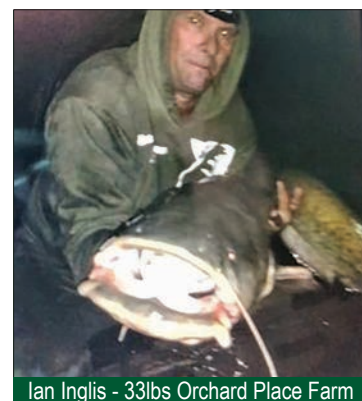
William Benningfield - 24lbs 3ozs Sutton at Hone



Anthony Stygal - 30lbs 8ozs Darent



Joe Glanville at Frant Lakes



Ian Inglis - 33lbs Orchard Place Farm



Darren Rawlings - 32lbs Elphicks



Niall-William Avenell - 22lbs 12ozs River Medway



Darren Bartholomew - 38lbs 6ozs Orchard Place Farm



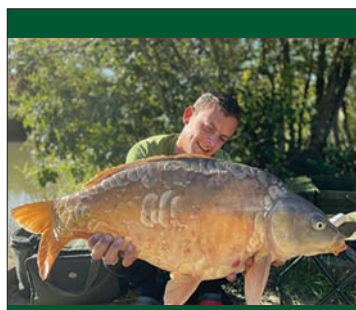
Jason Smith - First carp at Tricklebrook



Nick Tsalikidis - 25lbs Falkenvil Fishery



Sam Goshawk at Orchard Place Farm



Apsey Beaney at Lovelace Fishery



Carl Taylor - 9lbs 3ozs Edenbrooke Fishery



Charley Lucas - Tonbridge club water



Terry Davis - 14lbs Hawkhurst



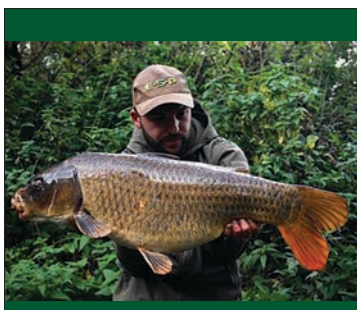
Jake Acott - 25lbs Tricklebrook New Lake



Robert Drouin - 30lbs Elphicks



Bradley at Orchard Place Farm



Dom Cole - 20lbs Thorney Weir



Kev Holt - Charlies Lakes



Kirsty Bundy - local river



Ron Davis - 17lbs 8ozs Charlies Lakes



Jamie - 18lbs Mousehole Lakes



Kristy Knowlden - 20lbs



Colin Beddoe - 21lbs on the fly rod at Elphicks



Ben Goshawk at Orchard Place Farm



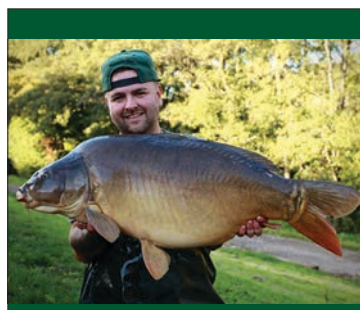
Ben Wright - 24lbs



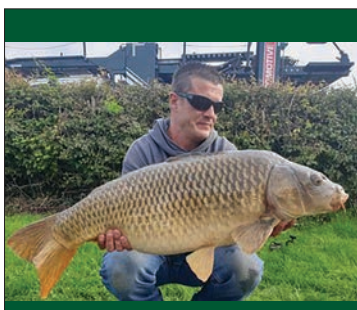
Owen Macauley - 28lbs Tricklebrook



Tommy Parks - 5lbs River Medway



Bowie Duffield - 41lbs off the top!



Terry Slatter - 26lbs 12ozs



Ethan Pope - Pevensey Drain



Marc Harris - 22lbs Claygate Lakes



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Damson Match Lake



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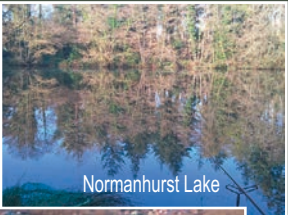
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On the island of Koh Samui, in the Gulf of Thailand, is one of the most amazing fisheries I have been lucky enough to fish, and this is my story.....!

I met Simon Cruddace, the owner of TopCats of Koh Samui, a couple of years ago as he is passionate about water quality, as all good fishery owners should be, and he wanted to stop using any toxic lead weights and go solely with my natural Stonze fishing weights – yet another fishery to take this common sense route. This led to me arranging a week's fishing trip to this exotic location with several other Team Pallatrax members, our most tropical Fish-In to date!

Walking through the entrance to the fishery you go via the restaurant area to where there is a balcony overlooking the Arapaima swim and your breath is taken away seeing massive fish swimming such a short distance away and knowing that I would soon be fishing for these specimens. Things were set to get very interesting and, hand on heart, as we settled down within our on-site accommodation I never slept a wink all night long!

There are 40 known species of fish lurking in the depths of TopCats and I just wanted to get out there, but had to wait, impatiently, for the 8am start time before I could start fishing for species I had only ever seen in books or in film clips.

One of the many benefits at this venue is that you are accompanied by their professional guides who are on hand to assist you throughout your sessions. They go out of their way to get you amongst the fish and I was very fortunate to have the excellent 'Tadpole' for the week. This young girl, well I can't thank her enough and she definitely worked hard to help me in my quest to catch several different species, and her casting was nothing short of sensational.

Tactics wise it was like being at home though 'beefed up', with 5.5lb tc rods and Big Pit reels loaded with Gamma 0.53mm irradiated fishing lines. The Stonze System was set up as a Method Feeder and I was trialling a new hooklink

in the form of 60lb Steamlink alongside a prototype Catfish hook. Bait wise was the venue's house baits, which I am proud to say I have helped Simon and Tadpole to develop over the past year. It was a bit odd to be fishing Jungle and Crave (Pallatrax baits) but, on an excellent base alongside my flavours and attractors, they were to perform fantastically.

So, into battle and as I cast out to the spots Tadpole recommended my excitement was palpable and within minutes I had my first TopCats run. Anyone using bite alarms knows that the screaming siren makes the heart leap and the adrenaline burst, but knowing I was fishing for the biggest fish in my life it made things even more special! Whatever was hanging on the end bent the tip over like it was a twig and I just held on for dear life – this was brutal and this fish was never going to come in easily! As the fish slowly edged towards a waiting Tadpole, I was to see my first ever Siamese Carp, a 60lb plus fish, swirl at my feet and it was soon in the retaining net and all I can say is that I was in a bit of a mess with the heat and the excitement and I had only been fishing for less than 30 minutes!

Giant Redtail
- one of my target fish



I could write several chapters on our adventures over the next few days as we just kept on landing fish after fish – Arapaima, Alligator Gar, Siamese Catfish, Amazon Redtails, Asian Redtails, Giant Mekong, Gourami, Pacu and Juliens, to name but a few! There are so many highlights that I should mention, but cherry picking the one capture that stood out for me, my first of three Mekong catfish, was an absolute beast of 120lb plus and took me 20 minutes to land. I really was a sweating mess and have never known such a solid fight. There was absolutely nothing I could do than hang on and enjoy the ride. Up and down and then I would gain a few feet but off the fish would go again, stripping all the Gamma I had gained and taking more! When landed the fish was absolutely stunning and holding her aloft in such a memory making place was something that is now forever etched within my angling journey.

It really was such an amazing trip and with some wonderful friends it made things even more memorable as we all caught lots and were able to share such fun together.

**POM'S
PEG**



Asian Redtail - what barbels!



Pacu



120lbs plus Giant Mekong
- pure power!



It wasn't all about the fishing!



Tadpole and me with another double run!

Last, but by no means least, I have to mention the Elephants! With such gruelling fishing we did take some time out to sample the local delights and one will be something impossible to ever forget. It is sad to see that Elephants are still kept in captivity in this supposedly enlightened day and age, but there is a small sanctuary on the island which seeks to buy elephants and look after them in a 'not for profit' environment. Here we met four incredible creatures that had been saved from the abuse of man and what gentle and amazing creatures they are. We fed them by hand, rubbed mud into their flanks and washed them in the local river. It was such an emotional time spent with these huge animals and in many ways made our trip. Something we will probably never ever get the chance to do again, something so wonderful. As mentioned, I could go on and on, but in ending, I cannot praise Simon, Tadpole and the rest of the Team at TopCats enough for their hospitality. The fishing was out of this world and I know I bang on about life being about creating wonderful memories, well this is right up there and I will definitely be going back chasing that elusive Ripsaw Catfish that I hope to catch one day. Until next time etc.

Simon 'Pom' Pomeroy

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The Golden Years of Coarse Fishing

by Bob Rolph

How the Catfish came to Britain – PART THREE

Remembering Bill Keal 50 years on!

Many thanks for all the great feedback received from my current Catfish series of articles! I have diverted a little in this month's article as it's 50 years to the month since the fishing world lost one of its most stalwart and successful big fish anglers and I wanted to pay tribute to this great angler!

Bill Keal was an early pioneer and promoter of the catfish, mainly at Woburn, but 1972 was a very sad year for the emerging specimen group scene as five of the most inspirational characters from this era were killed in unrelated motor car accidents during that awful year.

November 6th 1972 sadly saw Bill fatally injured in a motorway crash returning home from a fishing event. I remember the reports of it well as I had just started a

new job and was in W.H.Smiths in Sevenoaks a few days later and saw the news on an Angling Times headline at lunchtime. If Bill had survived this tragedy he would have undoubtedly outshone the Hiltons, Yates and Bowlers of the fishing world by now, as 50 years ago he was on top of his game in so many varied fields and fish species.

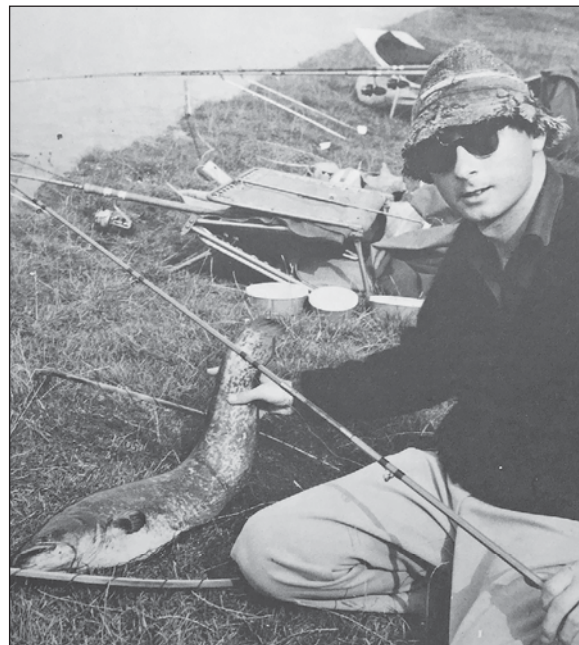
William Derek Keal was born on August 8th 1931 in Brixton, South London and worked in Fleet Street as a photojournalist and sub editor on the Times. He also wrote articles on specialist fishing for all the major magazines and papers of that period and his dedication put him well before his time on the 'big fish scene' and Bill was a prominent member of the prestigious Herts /Chiltern group of anglers. I met him just the once in about 1967 in the pitch dark at Woburn Park when we were poaching at night for Catfish on the Shoulder of Mutton pond. He had a 10lb cat in the "sack" and it was one of the first catfish that I had ever seen. We really did use large loose weave hessian sacks submerged at the water's edge to keep our fish in overnight, no doubt this would be frowned upon today, but it used to keep them quiet!



Bill Keal with 20 lb + pike in the early 60s

Bill was best known for his captures of large Carp, Pike and Wild Brown Trout from Ireland, and his extraordinary exploits in the 1960s were legendary! He also fished for Catfish at Woburn during this time with members of the Herts group such as Peter Frost, Jack Hilton and Dave Cheshire. The first two specimen groups were formed in the late 1950s and the London Group with Peter Butler was the other. They were all legendary anglers, but, sadly none are left now, and I'm the next as my Kent Group was the third to be formed in 1964!

The carp reservoir at Cheshunt in Hertfordshire and Eggetts Lake at Hemmingford Grey in Huntingdon were Bill's stomping ground along with Jack and Frank Guttfeld. Cheshunt is no more, long since filled in, but Eggetts (Marsh Lane Pit) is 65 acres and full of wooded islands and this water saw Bill's first 22lbs mirror in September 1962. These two lakes were the 'in place' to fish in the 1960s and run by the 'Red Spinner Angling Club' of which Bill was once the secretary.



Bill Keal with a Woburn Cat of 8lbs - circa 1964



Bill Keal and the fishery owner Jim Eggett with a brace of mirrors over 20lbs circa 1962

Bill teamed up with Fred Wagstaff, Bob Reynolds, Mike Prorock and Mike Muse from Melton Mowbray in 1972 to go to Southern Ireland and fish the huge Lochs for pike and wild brown trout. They fished Mask, Corrib and Castlehouse Lake in County Sligo in search of record breaking monsters. Trolling with huge copper spoons at depths of over 30 feet they had memorable success with truly wild browns and pike, Bill catching fish of 16lbs 1oz and 11lbs on the same day and numerous other trout from 3-6lbs. They sold the smaller trout to fund their trips and enable them to target the huge pike of Loch Mask and Castlehouse Lake all from their rickety old wooden boat 'The Black Pig' and 'Piglet' the inflatable dinghy!

Bill would have been 91 had he lived today, no doubt with a huge portfolio of massive fish to his name. He occasionally fished Redmire as far as I know, but was excited about the prospect of the three new reservoirs being planned for Grafham, Rutland and Bewl. He was also interested in Barbel and knew Peter Mead who we also lost back in 1972, a great and famous barbel angler and writer. What on earth would he have made of the size of fish that are being caught today and as for the catfish, well he just would not have believed it!

In the 1960s we had real angling /writer legends who wrote each month in the many journals of the time. Anglers like David Carl Forbes, Jim Gibbinson and Terry Coulson wrote each month in Fishing Magazine and Jim, Dave Steuart and John Nixon can still remember with me those 'Golden Days' when we built our own rods and nets, discovered our own lakes and just turned up on the day to fish if the weather was favourable and Club waters, or free fishing, was the order of the day! Mr Crabtree was our bible and things were so much simpler, no PBs, pods, unhooking mats, spod rods, bait boats, weighing gantries, hair rigs etc, etc, and cradles were for babies! BUT, it has to be said, there were far fewer fish caught. The fish of today don't know what's hit them with all the modern tackle and baits. Most of my old tackle is now in the Carp Society Museum at Horseshoe Lake at Lechlade, and I will no doubt join it all if I don't get my finger out and go fishing again soon!!

Bob Rolph



Bill Keal with a brace of Mirrors from Eggetts Lake - 21 and 22lbs - circa 1962



16lbs 1oz from Loch Mask - early 1970s



Bill Keal - Redmire Pool 16lbs - 1966

Medway Man

Bob Morris

With autumn in full swing now, I am still waiting for a decent amount of rainfall to allow the rivers to return to a normal seasonal flow and some of the stillwaters to top up again after the drought conditions of a couple of months back. I am sure that this will occur soon, although I don't really want to see the 'monsoon' season arrive and put a flood across the South East!

I have managed to get a few river sessions in since the last issue and I must say that it has been really great to get back on flowing water after a summer almost exclusively fishing for the tench. I have started off with a few sessions, mainly afternoon/evenings on the Medway with mixed results so far. One or two small to medium sized barbel along with a couple of better ones and several nice chub have graced my net so far. It is interesting that the longer I fish, the less the actual size of the fish seems to matter and the more the venue plus the excitement and uncertainty of exploring new areas seem to really trump the predictability of known stretches and swims for me - even when a big fish or two is definitely on the cards in the old favourite spots.



Big Medway Barbel

I also very much enjoy experimenting with new ideas on the tackle front, but arguably doing so on unexplored territory is not advisable, as the results and conclusions could be confusing and more difficult to analyse.

I must say that the Medway is now really good for hedging your bets and although the chub seem to be almost everywhere, some areas are undoubtedly better for barbel or carp even though barbel are now far more widespread than they were a few years back. The same actually goes for the pike fishing with some stretches apparently almost completely devoid of them, in spite of a plentiful supply of fodder fish - while other areas are relatively prolific.



One or two Chub



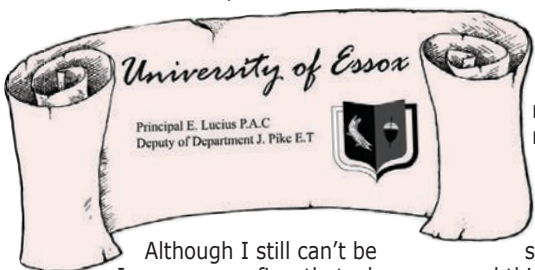
Bob will target river pike this autumn

I am trying to combine my river evenings with some afternoon pike fishing on the rivers this autumn and will probably not fish seriously for them on still waters until after Christmas. This, of course, will depend on the weather because, as I have said before, I have not done very well for pike in high water conditions / flooded or heavily coloured rivers. I had a few pike over the last couple of weeks mainly small ones, but interesting fishing nevertheless. It has however been a bit slow - the last session producing just a single take from a 13lbs fish. A few of the fish have fallen to bumped deadbaits which I believe used to be called 'sink and draw' back in Mr Crabtree days, but action on the static baits has been rather patchy to say the least.



Some stretches seem devoid of pike

This is something that I have noticed before and I once had a theory about this which revolved around the idea that pike were more inclined to pick up deadbaits from the bottom when the water got colder. I am now inclined to believe that the whole thing is a lot more complicated as I have now witnessed a fluctuation in the early season results on statics over the years. As previously mentioned, I am going to be experimenting with various aspects of tackle for my piking and have already been messing about with trace materials, hook size and type and a special type of float aimed at 'lift method' style fishing with small deadbaits in relatively shallow water. I will talk further about these subjects in more detail as the winter progresses and I have some thoughts, and hopefully, conclusions, on them. It really is good to have enrolled again and to be learning once more at the 'University of Esox' more from the University in the book!



A lot of people are now asking me about the book and the publication date.

Although I still can't be specific on this, I can now confirm that when you read this issue the book will be at the printers for the first run and I am taking orders. As mentioned in last month's issue, the first fifty will be numbered copies - and signed on request. I will ask Barry to announce the date of the Book launch/signing on the magazine's Facebook page and I will, of course, be advertising it elsewhere. I am sorry that there has been a hold-up but this has been inevitable (due to illness) but at least it will now be out in good time for Christmas.

Best Fishes & Reading Material
Bob Morris

Piscatorial Politics



I am not sure that everyone involved in angling club management would agree with me, but in my experience I would say that our relationship with organisations such as the Environment Agency have generally improved greatly over the past decade or so and the EA themselves seem to be more willing to engage with clubs over fishery matters and other environmental issues. I certainly welcome the more frequent and organised newsletters and articles explaining their current policies and ideas. This, along with frequent updates from the Angling Trust, Fish Legal and other organisations which aim to support our interests are a good step in the right direction. It is also

great to see Angling and fishery management courses being promoted through places such as Hadlow College etc. This is all good to see and gives me more faith about the possibility of a healthy future for angling in general. Getting back to the EA however, there are occasionally issues that puzzle me and getting logical answers or explanations for certain actions still seems extremely difficult. The following extract from a Fish Legal/ Angling Trust newsletter highlights a case that has baffled me for a while.

Complaint lodged due to 'farical' angling ban on Royal Military Canal

Members of the Rother Fishery Association have received a final notification that angling on the Southern bank of the Royal Military Canal, which they have rented since 1993, will no longer be permitted by the Environment Agency (EA), although the reason remains unclear. The Association learned that, unbeknown to them and the Estates Department at the EA who administer the stretch, angling on the South bank had been covertly withdrawn in 2013, but the club was not informed until 2020. The South bank is the most popular with the less able anglers among the Association's almost 5,000-strong membership as it is easier to access than the overgrown North bank. Following contradictory responses from different EA staff and an internal consultation, 'flood defence' was given as the reason for the final decision for banning angling despite there being no evidence of any previous problems. Since the Association were forced to stop accessing the South bank of the fishery, instances of wildlife crime and poaching have soared, with little sign of enforcement by the regulator. Fish Legal has now lodged a formal complaint of the EA's handling of the matter. Not yet a member? **Please consider joining Fish Legal!**

If you are not a member of Fish Legal and would like to find out more, give the membership team a call on 0343 5077 006, or visit the website.

I have to say, although I have not fished the waters in question a lot, I have always noticed that when I have been there, it has been well monitored with an RFA bailiff visiting and patrolling the water regularly and I have been approached by them on 75% of my visits there. Apparently Flood Defence (yes, that old chestnut) is now being cited as a reason to stop angling there ??? Come on EA, please give us a 'logical explanation', or better still - just reinstate the fishing rights for the RFA.



RMC - south bank

f BobMorrisCustomRods in Bob-Morris-93450776 Bmt1@btconnect.com 01322 866015

TALES OF A MEDWAY MAN

TALES
OF A
MEDWAY
MAN

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Hello and welcome to the November edition of Junior Informer!

Another month has passed and we cruise slowly in to the last month of Autumn and Winter is just around the corner! With the clocks changing our daylight hours become less and as we are now seeing darkness falls very early in the afternoon. However, it is not all doom and gloom as the fishing can still be very good. At this time of year the last couple of hours of daylight and the first hour of darkness are most often the most productive part of the day. The fish have a feeding spell during this time which means it provides the maximum chance of getting a few bites. As the water cools and less fish are 'grubbing' around, the water clarity improves and fish become more wary so a cautious approach regarding feeding and tackle is called for. Do try and fish a little finer than you would during the Summer months, smaller hooks and finer hook lengths are a good tip and look at the bait you are using. Very often a switch to naturals, maggots, worm, casters etc, can come in to their own and should not be neglected! The humble slice of bread also has an attraction when water is cooler and clearer, but be careful not to overfeed with bread. A piece of punched bread on the hook and a pinch of liquidised bread will be irresistible to most fish on a cold Autumnal day!

Well done to Sonny!



Proud dad Lee Williams sent in this report following his lad's lovely fish from a difficult Dorset pit:
"I just wanted to send you this of my son, Sonny Williams, as it's a very hard Dorset gravel pit and I have yet to catch there, but my son flicked a rod out and had this 25lbs 4ozs common within 40 minutes of the bait being in the pond. A proud dad moment with a hint of jealousy! Adaptive Baits hard hooker and a bag of pellet is what he caught it on."

Happy days and smiling faces!



Jamie sent in this report after taking his children to Lucks Lane Fishery and it was happy faces all round after a great day on the bank: "Hi Barry, I took my children to Lucks Lane today and they caught their first ever carp. What an amazing experience for them. My youngest son Harry refused to hold them so my eldest son Riley helped him. Lilly Anne also caught some carp as well." Regards, Jamie

More to fishing than catching fish!



Leah sent in this report which truly sums up that fishing is not just about catching fish:
"This is Mollie and she is 10 years old and at Claygate lakes for her first time fishing and the first time she has ever held a fish! Mollie has ASD, an incurable condition that causes tumours to grow on the nerve endings, hashimotos disease which affects the thyroid, she's on lots of medication to keep her body alive. She has really taken to fishing as it seems to calm her. Our thanks to Claygate Lakes for giving her the opportunity to fish for the day with her daddy who caught none!"
Regards, Leah



Each 'Ready, Steady, Fish' pack contains:
 400g of shelf life Squabs • 3 x medium swivel Stonze weights
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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 OCTOBER is... **Jude Duggan**

Logan Slatter

Mollie at Claygate Lakes

Albie - 26lbs Knightingales Fishery

Stanley Etherington and his first carp

Lilly Inglis - 13lbs Coombewood Fishery

Ethan Wright - 8lbs

Finlay Parker - Darenth

Tallulah Langer - 28lbs

Becky Bates - 24lbs New PB

Beau and mates at Barming

Sid at Teapot Island

November update

by instructor Warren White



I used to run the Fishing for Schools' school programme in Kent, but last year David Evans took over the bulk of the schools and I now look after F4S mental health groups and although the intention was not to do any schools for F4S, I carried on a couple.

One that we had just got Tackle Box funding for was Stone Lodge school, Dartford and Rowhill School (F4S fund their younger students to get an interest in fishing) before myself and David work with the older Monday and Thursday AQA groups, which is funded by the school.

Basically, our coaching has expanded and I chose to do two days at Rowhill doing the Angling qualification work. Since going back to school after the summer break it has been a very busy time for us as myself and David Evans (coach) as we run two daily sessions with Rowhill SEN school who this year are taking the AQA Fishing course. This is a good course as it is very fishing orientated which keeps the students engaged, but being a new course to us there is an awful lot of work to put in place especially with the preparation of new worksheets etc. David Evans and his team of F4S coaches are working with two schools, Thamesview school from Gravesend, one of our oldest schools on the programme and a new school, Dunton Green.

Our AQA work at Rowhill SEN School goes from strength to strength, we now run two sessions of the course weekly. The lads have been visiting many fisheries on the way including Grove Farm at Hadlow, Hall Place, Allhallows and Shorne Country Park to get experience of different fisheries. Such is the need for fishing lessons at the school that David works five days a week teaching all age groups. Rowhill school, Longfield is a school with behaviour and learning and mental health needs. It is astounding how these pupils can sit outdoors with a fishing rod in their hands all day, but for some, they find it hard to concentrate at school for short periods of time. My personal view is that we have

hit upon a subject that the students enjoy, for some it was already their hobby before we taught them at the school and the fact that they are outdoors in a healthy environment.

One Rowhill student who has been really doing well at Grove Farm, Hadlow, we call him the Perch Whisperer, is Reggie and along with another lad Jack on the Thursday AQA course they have had some cracking catches of Perch. I would just say that at Grove Farm recently we have had some cracking catches of Perch by our students. There is a lot of patience and perseverance that goes into catching these fish. There is no single best method, we have had Perch on single maggot on the whip along with good fish Jigging. The one bit of advice I would give is that normally these fish are caught when we have been feeding a swim with maggots on the whip or the waggler and the Perch get drawn in.

I do not normally single out individual students for praise, but one student, Kian who loves whip fishing for silver fish, has on the last two AQA Thursday sessions at Hadlow, hooked and landed the two biggest Carp of the day, one around 15lbs and on a whip that is some achievement! This success was recognized at school in the assembly so very well done to him!

A little heart warming story! Recently I was contacted by Graham Gordon who had spoken to Barry at the Informer beforehand. He wanted to donate his father in law, Ron Morris, Carp and coarse tackle to a good cause. Ron was a lifelong angler who sadly passed away last year. I was really pleased to accept this gear as my aim is to pass it on to young people who I coach as well as

3lbs 4ozs perch

my mental health groups. Graham said: "I am so pleased that we have found a worthy cause to donate tackle to and I hope it brings joy to whoever will get to use it."

I had a call recently from a mum who knew me because I had coached her son Sam at a Gravesham Council event run by David Evans at Shorne Country Park. I was his coach on the day and she got in touch with me to say that her lad who had started fishing with a whip now wanted to progress onto rod and reel fishing and wanted advice about what rod and reel to buy him.

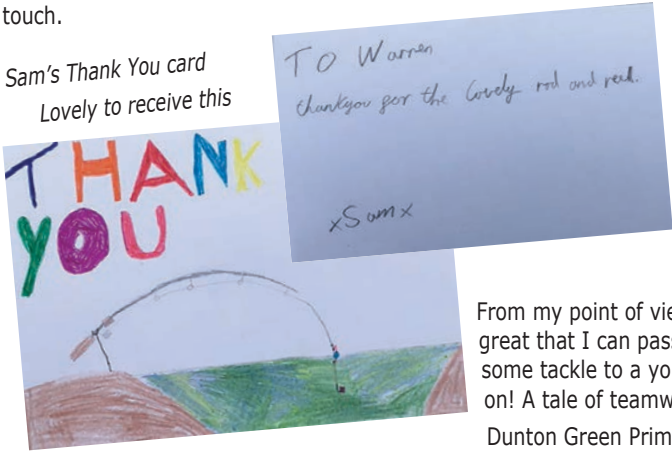


Nice Perch, Reggie aka 'The Perch Whisperer'



I mentioned that I get various donations of tackle from time to time and I would be able to sort him out a rod and reel, which she was very appreciative. I arranged for her son Sam and dad to come and pick the tackle up. The rod I had in mind was a John Wilson 11ft/13ft Avon Quiver, one similar to what I started with and the special thing was it was from Ron Morris's tackle collection that had been donated by Graham. The reel was a donation from my uncle John, who could no longer drive, so wouldn't be going fishing again. When Sam came to my house and picked it up, you could see that he was absolutely made up, which was nice to see! A few days later I got a letter through the post from Sam thanking me for his lovely rod and reel along with a card that he had made himself with some excellent artwork, what a nice touch.

Sam's Thank You card
Lovely to receive this



From my point of view it is great that I can pass on some tackle to a young person that will hopefully be the start of a hobby for life, Ron Morris's legacy lives on! A tale of teamwork, resilience and perseverance in Kent!

Dunton Green Primary School pupils have loved taking part in Fishing for Schools during the Autumn

term. Students have learnt a wealth of skills, from fishing and conservation to communication and teamwork, all whilst building confidence and self-esteem. Well done to all those who took part for successfully completing their Level 1 Cast Award!

"A calming and engaging activity that allows children to build their confidence and develop new skills"
- Dunton Green School



Our special thanks go to Colin at Coombe Bank Fishery, Hadlow College for the use of Hadlow College's fishery at Grove Farm, Kent Community Foundation for supporting our sessions with Dunton Green and Monk Lakes, TWAPS and The Tackle Box for all their ongoing support.

Great day at Greenacres for Joshua!



Peter Collings sent in this report after a memorable day out with cousin Joshua: "Over the past few years I've had the pleasure of taking my 10 year old cousin Joshua fishing and as he had never caught a Tench we decided to visit Greenacres as I know from experience Bluebell lake holds a decent amount of them. With the weather gods smiling on us Joshua managed to catch his very first Tinca within the hour so with the mission accomplished we then moved onto the match lake where over the next few hours he managed to catch another 6 different species including 23 smashing small carp. I can honestly say that Joshua is well and truly hooked on fishing and too him it doesn't matter what species he catches or it's size which is so refreshing from one so young."



November update

from director Charles Jardine



If you are very quick there is just time for you, a school that you know or have an association with, to make an application for the coming year's intake! This year especially, we have seen an unprecedented (hate the word...but it's the only one which truly works!) demand for places from Kent through to North Wales... with plans to look at bringing Fishing for Schools to Northern Ireland!



I am sure you will have read Warren White's amazing insights into what we do at F4S; but each and every school that comes into our little world is so important – dare I say “precious” – to us as anglers. The real value and worth delivered by our very special cohort of nineteen Coaches is incalculable and brings joy, fun and insight to young people in ways which are and possibly never will be, fully seen or realised.

To do it, be there and part of their lives, if only for a moment, is very special and to be in a position to also offer a pastime for life is a very rare privilege.

We remain as committed now as we were 17 years ago, when we started!

So: what's been happening?

Well I did finish the London Marathon – collapsing at mile 20/21 was not perhaps my finest hour, but with some help from St Johns Ambulance and some fabulous support from the streets and well-wishers – oh! and an industrial quantity of chocolate mini twirls, my glucose dropped to 30 and at one point I lost my pulse, neither good for finishing a marathon! However having rested for a good hour and half, I dusted myself down, got out on the track and got the job done. Crossing the finish line was pure joy for me, as it was the countless other thousands, but no more! With Marathons I am done, no more!



This year we had an amazing team of F4S runners that have amassed over eighteen thousand pounds... and there is still time for you to help us if you haven't already!

Just two days after the London run, I was on a plane bound for New York to receive an award and be invested into the American Fly Fishing Hall of Fame – the only living fisher from the UK apparently, to receive this astonishing accolade. I didn't like to say that only days before in London I was in a rather sorry state!



What a week and I am blessed! Adding to everything, I am now a grandfather again ...little Poppy J came into the world just days before the marathon.... It has been an odd, but exciting time and there is always time for a little bit of fishing both here and in the USA .

Sometimes, you just look back and say: Thank goodness for fishing.

Allbests, Charlie J



TROUT INFORMER

Tenterden Trout Waters

Tenterden, Kent

We have all enjoyed an Indian Summer and water temperatures have remained high so fishing throughout October has been a challenge and water levels are still not high enough after the drought.

There are plenty of Trout in the lakes but they have become lethargic because of this. In early November the larger fish will have been stocked in the hope that normal temperatures for the time of year will prevail and the Trout will be responsive, in turn providing good sport for our Anglers! Current patterns that are working Damsels, Black Nymph, Bloodworm. Autumn is looking pretty at the Fishery. Three Lakes (just under 5 acres of water) are fully stocked with quality Rainbows, Blues & Brownies (3lbs-14lbs) so make sure you fish them all when you are here to get the maximum out of your visit. We do request that our Brownies are returned to the water. We would suggest an intermediate line or floating line with sink tip and to move position every 30 minutes. Our Lakeside Fishery Lodge is open providing tea/coffee with our compliments. Please call 01580 763201 or email gaynor@coombe-farm.com to book your fishing to avoid disappointment. 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.

Stay & Fish - Our Shepherds Hut accommodation is open all year round for both Anglers who wish to stay and fish and for other guests who just welcome a short break away in Kent. We are delighted that it has been well received by guests in our positive reviews. We offer 20% off our permit prices if you stay in our Ghillies Hut. To discover more visit our 'Shepherds Hut' heading on our website and click on Availability and Bookings which directs you to our Airbnb listing.

Fishing Tuition is available at our Fishery £50 for 1hr 30 mins. Please enquire/book direct with Richard Stokes, our Instructor, email richard@coombe-farm.com if you are interested in learning a new skill set. Visit our Tuition Page on our website for more info and you can purchase a lesson as a gift voucher experience for someone special. For an up-to-date fishing report please visit 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. Our family run Fishery was established in 1975 and we are one of the Top 50 Stillwater Trout Fisheries in the British Isles and a Trout Master Water. Our Fishery is also a picturesque Wedding Venue in July, August & early September when we are closed for Summer. Discover more at www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk/wedding-venue

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Tight Lines

- Gaynor, Richard & Audrey

Brick Farm Lakes

Herstmonceux, East Sussex

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www.springhilltroutwaters.co.uk



Lure Fishing

Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman

I've just returned from three days fishing Clywedog reservoir [SY18 6NZ] in mid-Wales. Clywedog has been on my "wish list" for a couple of years now. I'd heard such good reports about this water and its dry fly fishing that I had to go there and see for myself. I even went to the BFFI fly fair last February to discuss the fishing with fishery manager Russ Owen and head ranger Gaz Dixon. They were manning a booth at the event and I was keen to glean as much information as possible about the fly hatches and when I should time my visit!

Much to my surprise Wales has been hit just as hard by the drought as we have in the South East. I had been warned that the water level would be down by about ten meters! This had reduced the fishable area by a quarter from its normal 615 acres. James Gardner and I headed up the motorway with some trepidation as the weather forecast was dire! High winds touching gale force at times with heavy rain was being forecast for the entire trip, not great for fly fishing when you're in a boat! We arrived at our hotel and met up with our friends from the [EFA] England Fly Fishing Association who'd invited us to join them on their club visit.

Let's go fishing

We excitedly made our way to the reservoir the next morning eager to get our first glimpse of the water. The road meandered ever upwards towards who knew what! The steep hillsides were populated by sheep that looked more like mountain goats. Finally as we rounded a sharp bend, there below us was the breath-taking sight of the dam and the water far below us. You could imagine what it must be like to be a Buzzard or a Kite, we literally had a "bird's eye view" of the lake.

Finally arriving at the fishing lodge I headed towards the boat jetty to get a better view of the water and was astonished by what I saw. The bank was so steep it was like looking over a cliff edge and the path that led to the jetty had to snake from side-to-side to make it possible to descend safely. The whole section at the 'top end' of the reservoir from the moorings to 'Braich y Fedw Arm' was dry. The torrential rain the preceeding few days had started to have an impact. The incoming water was coursing over exposed mud and coupled with the wind's wave action had now turned the colour of milky tea!

DAY ONE

I had been paired with Mark Searle, and as Mark had fished the previous day we decided he should captain the boat and decide where we fished. We started just downstream from the jetty, seeking shelter in front of the sailing club. Several other boats were already drifting here and we soon saw why. Fish were rising in several places within the bay, some so close to our boat that we could see them just under the surface. Although the water was coloured there was still about 2ft visibility and the trout seemed eager to feed. I didn't need any more encouragement than this. I quickly tackled up with two dry hopper patterns; I usually fish three flies, but on this occasion opted for just two to avoid tangles. My point fly was a black FM Davie McPhail Bibio hopper and the dropper fly was a claret CDC hopper. It didn't take long before I hooked my first fish which took the Bibio hopper; it was no surprise that the black fly was successful. Black offers a strong silhouette in dirty water standing out whether fished on or under the surface, far better than coloured flies that seem to disappear.

By lunch time Mark had caught a fish on a Grunter dry fly and rose several others. I added another fish this time on the claret hopper. I find claret to be a very effective colour for dry flies in the autumn. I've no idea why it's so good at this time of year, but it's something I learnt years ago and it still works. Our group gathered for lunch and shelter at the fishing lodge. We were eager to hear how the others were getting on and where they had fished.



Our first sight of Llyn Clywedog



This zig-zag pathway to the jetty



Looking down towards 'Bwch y Gle'

After our break we decided to venture further down the lake looking for cleaner water. As the reservoir snakes its way down the valley the steep hills offered some shelter from the strengthening wind. We aimed our drifts to take us towards the small dam at the bottom of the long straight below the sailing club. The wind was pushing into the corner of a sharp right hand bend known as 'Bwch y Gle'. With the water much clearer here we were confident of catching, we were both still on dries. Fish were showing in the sheltered water where we started our drifts. Clearly these fish were feeding but on what? I tried covering rising fish but failed to get any responses. Next I tried switch casting, changing the angle of each cast hoping to induce a take as my flies landed, again this didn't work either. The only way I did catch was to "heave it and leave it" just waiting for a fish to find either of my flies. I caught three more fish doing this but it clearly wasn't the answer when you consider the number of fish I saw. Mark had a frustrating day attracting plenty of offers to his flies but for some reason most were stopping just short of taking them. Just before knocking off time Mark connected with a much bigger fish that 'greyhounded' across the surface in front of me before coming adrift, d'oh!

DAY TWO

Gary Howe was my boat partner on the second day. Gary the 'snake charmer' had a method sorted from his practice day with Mark Searle. Gary was using a two inch black snake fly that was made from rabbit or mink strip. This gives it a mobile swimming action. Snakes are very effective hookers due to having a tandem hook arrangement with the rear hook positioned in the tail itself. Gary was using just one fly on a Di5 sinking line. After each cast he quickly tucked his rod under his arm and used a fast 'roly poly' hand over hand retrieve. His snake was swimming in the top twelve inches of water, although this looked nothing like anything the trout were feeding on he managed to catch eight fish on this method. The previous day this tactic had produced over a dozen fish and on his practice day he caught twenty nine fish once he'd worked out the method! Gary's catches were phenomenal but it was becoming less effective as the conditions deteriorated. I reluctantly had to join in pulling flies quickly sub-surface but choose a black Humongous fly instead, something a little smaller and easier to cast. I also elected to use a Di3 a slightly slower sinking line which I hoped would allow me to vary my retrieves too. Mid-afternoon, as I hung my fly at the end of a retrieve my leader tightened and I found myself attached to a fish which to my relief saved a blank!



Peter Hartley with a Clywedog rainbow

I mixed my retrieves up sometimes using long smooth strips before switching to a fast "twiddling" figure of eight retrieve. I missed one take fishing in this manner but fortune visited me again as I fluked another fish when I proceeded to lift off at the end of a retrieve. I was trying to lift off, but my fly refused to move, a swirl alerted me to the fact that a fish had taken the Humongous as it sat stationary just sub-surface. Another blank avoided!

Peter was far more thoughtful than I and systematically used a variety of lines and flies to put a respectable bag together. Two daddy long legs on a mini tip line drew the attention of a couple of fish which swirled at the flies but failed to hook up. His next ploy was to fish a black snake on Di3 before eventually changing to the Di5. Although he was fishing close to the surface the Di5 dug in enough to prevent the line being dragged out of position as the boat yawed from side-to-side in the blustery wind. It just shows how small details can make such a big difference in your results.

Although it was tough fishing I was so impressed by the fishery that James and I are planning another visit next spring when the water's up and the fish are rising.

Tight lines, Andy Lush



No pot of gold at the end of this rainbow, just a soggy end



Not what I'd expected to see in Wales

DAY THREE

Peter Hartley was my boat partner on the last day. Peter is a very experienced fly fisherman who teaches and coaches anglers on Anglian Water's Rutland and Grafham reservoirs so I was in good company. We headed back down the straight with the rest of the fleet looking for clearer water. I started on dries but after raising two fish which both came short I decided to change, it was just too difficult to see my dries in the rough water. So it was back to pulling a black Humongous on a Di3, not my thing!



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

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

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

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

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

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



Coarse Fisheries

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Charlies Lakes Steeds Lane, Kingsnorth, Ashford TN26 1NH	07857 539785
Chart Hill Lakes Chart Hill Road, Chart Sutton ME17 3EZ	07398 571337
Chequertree Trout and Coarse Fishery Bethersden, Near Ashford TN26 3JR	01233 820078
Coombewood Fishery Redbrook Street, High Halden, Near Ashford TN26 3JH	07895 679569
Elphicks Fisheries Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden TN12 8EL	01580 212512
Eureka Fishery Nicholas Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN25 4AG	07597 879621
Frant Lakes Hawkenbury Road Bells Yew Green, Tunbridge Wells TN3 9AP	01892 616424
Furnace Brook Fishery and Fish Farm Trolliloes, Cowbeech, near Hailsham BN27 4QR	01435 830835
Gabriels Fishery Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP	07730 066088
Greenacres Farm Fishery Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden TN27 8EH	07933 934942
Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	01580 753813
Horam Manor Fishery Horam Manor Farm, Horam TN21 0JB	01323 840889 / 07707 759364
Horsmonden Lakes Grovehurst Road, Horsmonden TN12 8BQ	01892 838576
Iden Wood Fishery Coldharbour Lane, Iden, Rye TN31 7UT	01797 280180 / 07906 232225
Knightingales Fishery Stone-In-Oxney, Near Tenterden TN30 7HA	07941 176205
Mousehole Lakes Maidstone Road Nettlestead, Near Paddock Wood ME18 5HR	07725 783405
Orchard Place Farm Fishery Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood TN12 6NY	01892 838576
Pittlands Lakes Churn Lane, Horsmonden, Paddock Wood TN12 8HL	07716 065900
Sandwich Lakes Coarse Fishery Sandwich Ash Road (A257), Near Canterbury CT3 2DA	07936 409912
Shirkoak Fishery Bethersden Road, Woodchurch, Ashford TN26 3PZ	07973 410973
The Lakes at Beachborough Beachborough Park Newington, Near Folkestone CT18 8BW	07469 809877
Tricklebrook Fishery Colts Hill, Five Oak Green TN12 6SH	07743 955812
Willows Angling Centre Bax Farm, Lower Road, Teynham ME9 9BU	01795 520887
Wylands Farm Wylands Farm, Powdermill Lane, Battle TN33 0SU	01424 893394

Trout Fisheries

Brick Farm Lakes Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux BN27 4RS	01323 832615
Cinder Hill Fly Fishing Membership available from: Email: r.nathan@btinternet.com	01892 770903
Coltsford Mill Trout Fishery & Fly Tackle Shop Mill Lane, Oxted, Surrey RH8 9DG	01883 715666 / 07798 605867
Spring Hill Trout Waters Albans Farm, Romford Road, Pembury TN2 4BB	07951 304515
Tenterden Trout Waters Coombe Farm, Chennell Park Road, Tenterden TN30 6XA www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk	01580 763201

Tackle & Bait Supplies

Absolute Tackle 12 Wealden Forest Park Herne Common, Kent CT6 7LQ	01227 636724 / 07809 330854
Anglers Den 6 North Road, Pevensy Bay BN24 6AY	01323 460441

Angling Specialist (ASH) 29 Queen Street, Horsham RH13 5AA	01403 264644
A.R. Tackle 8 Castle Street, Hastings TN34 3DY	01424 422094
Bait Bucket Tackle Warehouse Unit T Rich Industrial Estate, Avis Way, Newhaven BN9 0DU	01273 933050
Best Buddies 28 Martello Drive, Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6PH	01303 487144
Bodle Angling Cuckfield Road, Burgess Hill RH15 8RE	01444 247757
Camos Carp Cabin 11 Turner Street, Ramsgate CT11 8NJ	01843 581784
Chris Brown Products email: chrisofoaks@gmail.com	01892 723670 www.cbproducts.co.uk
Dens Tackle 73 Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6JN	01303 267053
Eastbourne Aquarium & Reptile Centre 19-21 Seaside, Eastbourne BN21 3PP	01323 730635
Gabriels Fishery Tackle Shop Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP	07730 066088
Henfold Bait & Tackle Henfold Lakes Henfold Lane, Newdigate, Dorking RH5 4RW	07956 043922
Jack Frost Reynolds Place, West Green, Crawley RH11 7HB	01293 521186
Kent Angling Centre 44, Seal Road, Sevenoaks TN14 5AR	01732 905088
Medway Tackle Supplies 11 Twydall Green, Gillingham ME8 6JY	01634 475260
MFC Outdoor Store 9 Station Road, Hailsham BN27 2BE	01323 846883
NJ Tackle 150 Milton Road, Gravesend DA12 2RG	01474 353998
Orchard Tackle 58 High Brooms Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9DB	07494 670328
Pinions Baits 431 London Road, Ditton, Aylesford ME20 6DB	01622 718580
Polegate Angling Centre Unit 7, Birch Industrial Estate, Eastbourne BN23 6PH	01323 486379
Romney Angling 59, High Street, New Romney TN28 8AH	01797 362889
Sheppey Angling , Unit 5, Regis Business Park New Road, Sheerness, Kent ME12 1HA	01795 661089
South London Angling Centre 286 Lee High Road, London SE13 5PJ	0208 852 4451
Sussex Bait Developments Falkenvil Fishery, Saltmarsh Lane, Hailsham BN27 2RJ	07971 303949
The Tackle Box 251 Watling Street, Dartford DA2 6EG	01322 292400
Trade In Tackle Maidstone Road Wateringbury ME18 5EH	01622 814296 / 07941 085011

Angling Clubs & Societies

Bromley (Kent) & District AS PO Box 895, East Grinstead RH19 9ND Email: bdas-kent-enquiry@bdaskent.co.uk	
Cinder Hill Fly Fishing Membership available from email: r.nathan@btinternet.com	01892 770903
Crawley Angling Society c/o Jack Frost Tackle Reynolds Place, West Green Crawley RH11 7HB Email: info@crawleyangling.co.uk	01293 521186
Fly Dressers Guild (Sussex Branch) New members welcome - contact Simon	07799 484166
Hastings Bexhill & District Postal enquiries to S.Corke, 2, The Sidings, Bexhill On Sea TN40 1RF Chris Pagan	07429 655237 / Steve Potter 07935 268174
Linton Angling Society Jason Tuckey on	07983 569220 or email lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk

Tonbridge & District A & FPS PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB	Martyn 07802 248861
Wantsum Angling Association or contact via website www.wantsumaa.co.uk	01227 678063

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36 hours : £55

48 hours : £70

5 days : £145

6 days : £160

60 hours : £85

72 hours : £100

84 hours : £115

96 hours : £130

7 days : £175

Exclusive Hire up to 6 anglers for 48 hours : £450

KINGFISHER LAKE up to 3 Rods

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24 hours : £35

36 hours : £50

48 hours : £65

5 days : £140

6 days : £155

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96 hours : £125

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